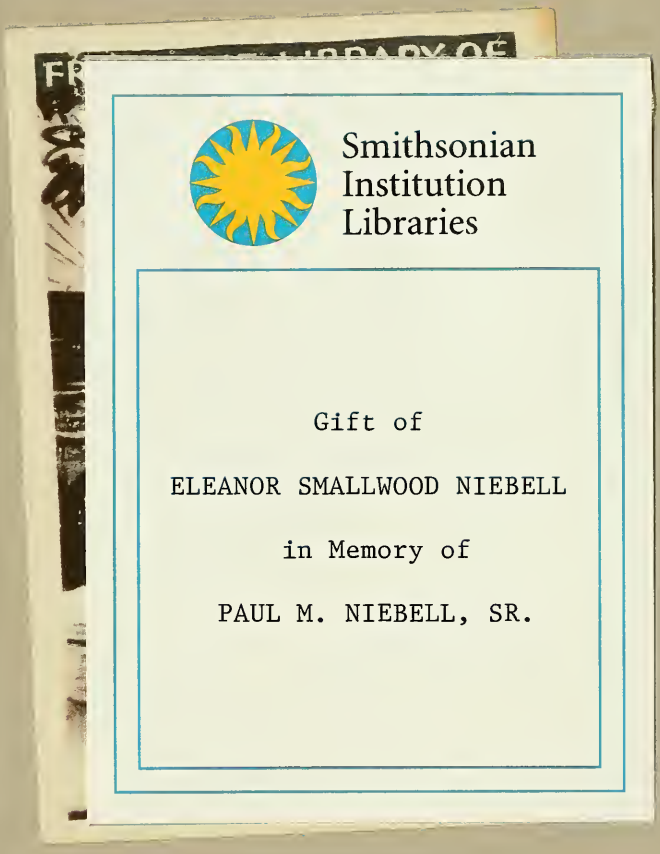
Smithsonian
Institution
Libraries

Gift of

ELEANOR SMALLWOOD NIEBELL

in Memory of

PAUL M. NIEBELL, SR.

E
83.835
U553
1840
NMAI

SMITHSONIAN SEP 20 1999 LIBRARIES

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate, copies of the correspondence between the War Department and Governor Call, concerning the war in Florida.

MARCH 12, 1840.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON, *March* 11, 1840.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the Senate, dated the 4th of February, 1840, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies of the correspondence between the Department of War and Governor Call, concerning the war in Florida.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

M. VAN BUREN.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,
President of the Senate.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March* 11, 1840.

SIR: In obedience to your direction, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies of the correspondence between the Department of War and Governor Call, concerning the war in Florida, as called for by the resolution of the Senate, dated the 4th February, 1840.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

To the PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 25, 1836.

SIR: I enclose, for your information, the copy of a letter this day addressed to General Clinch. Should General Scott leave, or have left the Territory, and should General Clinch not continue in service, you are then authorized to assume the command of the regular forces and militia serving in Florida, and to employ the same in the best manner for the defence of the country and the speedy subjugation of the Indians.

Blair & Rives, printers.

I acknowledged, some time since, the receipt of your letter proposing a summer campaign for the reduction of the Indians. In the event of the command devolving upon you, under the circumstances above stated, you are authorized to organize an expedition for this purpose. You will please, however, to advert to the considerations stated in the letter to General Clinch, with respect to the service of the troops, and the dangers of the climate; and you must form your judgment on a view of the whole circumstances. In these suggestions the President fully concurs; and it is his desire that the operations should be conducted as vigorously as possible. I enclose, herewith, a copy of two acts of Congress: one entitled "An act to provide for the payment of volunteers and militia corps in the service of the United States;" and the other "authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of dragoons, or mounted riflemen." I am instructed by the President to request that you will cause to be raised in the Territory of Florida 1,000 volunteers, to be called immediately into the service of the United States. The act of Congress provides that the officers shall be appointed agreeably to the laws of the State or Territory where they are raised. When corps already organized tender their services, they will be accepted with their present organization. When this is not the case, and the men are to be engaged individually, they will, in the first instance, be arranged into companies, and then into battalions, regiments, and a brigade. When existing corps do not tender their services, the basis of the organization will be the present militia laws of the United States. These are the acts of Congress of May 8, 1792; of January 2, 1795; of March 2, 1803; of April 18, 1814; and of April 20, 1816. An abstract accompanies this letter, showing the mode of organization, and the number and rank of the officers. You will conform your arrangements to the principles of these laws, as herein explained. Taking into view the acts of Congress of May 8, 1792, in the third section of which the organization is limited to where the same may be convenient, and also the fourth section of the act of the 24th May, 1836, a discretionary power appears to be vested in the President on the subject of organization generally. It must, therefore, be controlled by the number of men, and by other circumstances. You will organize your companies so as to contain fifty privates each. The officers, non-commissioned officers, and musicians, will be regulated by the above acts of Congress. You will organize the companies immediately into battalions, placing five companies in each battalion. These battalions will form two regiments, and one brigade. Should circumstances not enable you to raise the whole number specified, you must organize those who may volunteer upon those principles.

It is scarcely necessary that I should urge upon you the most prompt action upon this subject. Orders will be issued to Captain Shannon to muster the men into service as fast as the companies are formed. You will immediately employ them in the defence of the country until General Scott or General Clinch shall make permanent arrangements for their service. The necessary orders will be given to the Quartermaster's, Subsistence, and Pay Departments, to provide the funds for any disbursements that may be required, as fast as necessary. Authority having already been given to you for procuring arms and ammunition, it is not necessary again to renew the order. Instructions will also be given for issuing the necessary camp equipage.

It is proper to observe, that the provision in the second section of the act of May 21, 1836, "which allows to volunteers a commutation for clothing when called into actual service," must be construed to give them a claim for such commutation from that time, which will be paid to them at the same time, and in the same manner, as they receive their monthly pay. No other construction can be given to the law, as it is impossible to tell, until the end of the service, the whole amount of commutation which may be due to a volunteer. The pay of these volunteers will not commence until they are called into service, and they have reached the place of rendezvous; and they will, in all cases, be engaged to serve for twelve months thereafter, unless sooner discharged.

My letter to General Clinch will have advised you of the arrangements with respect to the Tennessee volunteers. I beg, in addition, that you would keep up a constant communication with General Jesup, that he may be able to take his ulterior measures with a full knowledge of existing circumstances.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *May* 26, 1836.

Sir: If General Jesup, in the course of the campaign, shall move into Florida, and General Scott shall be absent, he will, of course, be entitled to, and will assume the command of the military operations in that quarter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *June* 1, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of May 16th and 18th, both of which arrived yesterday.

Upon referring to the communications addressed to you on the 25th ultimo, you will perceive that the arrangements there made for the campaign in Florida render unnecessary, at this time, any measures of this department in relation to the subject of your letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *June* 8, 1836.

Sir: Your letter of the 24th ultimo has this moment been received.

Having in my previous letters communicated to you the arrangements which it had been thought best to adopt for the defence of Florida, it is not necessary that I should again advert to the subject generally. General

Scott has left the Territory, and this department is not yet informed whether General Clinch will resume his military duties. I understand that he is probably at St. Mary's, Georgia; and duplicate communications have been sent to him, one of which the postmaster at Milledgeville was requested to forward to him by express. If, on the receipt of this letter, you should not have ascertained his determination, I would thank you to communicate with him, and inquire whether he intends to continue in the service. This you will please do without delay, and by an express, whose expenses will be paid by the department; and if, on the receipt of his answer, you find that he does not expect to resume the command in Florida, you will at once take upon yourself the command of all the regular troops, volunteers and militia, who may be employed there, and use your best endeavors for the defence of the country, under the instructions heretofore given. It seems to me that your suggestions are very just; but, at this distance, and with the imperfect knowledge we have of the topography of the country, it is impossible to speak with any certainty upon the subject. The instructions of General Jesup, a copy of which was transmitted to you, will have shown you that the department was fully aware of the importance of preventing all communication between the Creeks and Seminoles, and therefore instructed General Jesup, among the first measures, to station a force on the southern part of the Creek country with that view.

I enclose, for your information, a copy of the order issued from the Adjutant General's office, authorizing you to assume the command in Florida, in the event of the absence of General Scott and General Clinch.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *June* 18, 1836.

Sir: I have but a moment to inform you that General Clinch has renewed the tender of his resignation, which has been accepted. I presume you have ascertained this fact ere this, and that you are already in the command of the troops in Florida. If not, you will please to assume the command without delay.

Governor Cannon is proceeding to raise the volunteers which have been asked from the State of Tennessee. The number assigned to West Tennessee is from twelve to fifteen hundred, who are all to be mounted. They are to rendezvous at Fayetteville on the 1st of July. Directions will be immediately given for them to proceed to Tallahassee, and to place themselves under your command. I will write to you again in the beginning of the week.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *June* 20, 1836.

Sir: I addressed you a short letter on Saturday, informing you that General Clinch's resignation had been accepted, and renewing the authority for you to take command of the regular troops and militia serving in Florida. It is the expectation of the President that you will employ them in the best manner in the subjugation of the Indians, and the protection of the country. The proper operations must be committed to your own discretion. The President is disposed to think well of the plan suggested by you; but there are also many circumstances which must have weight in such a matter, that the proper measures can only be determined upon where they are to be carried into effect. Among those, not the least important is the climate. It is obvious that a very great risk of human life, from its insalubrity, ought not to be, unless the state of the country absolutely requires such an exposure. Opinions upon the subject of carrying on a campaign during the summer have been variant. You must exercise a sound discretion upon the whole matter.

I enclose a copy of a letter this day addressed to General Scott, by which you will see that orders have been given to him to send to your aid 1,000 of the west Tennessee mounted men, should you not succeed in raising the volunteer force authorized by my letter of May 25th.

You will immediately communicate to General Scott your views upon the matter, and likewise upon the subject of your operations generally, as his movements and yours may affect each other.

I enclose, also, an extract of the instructions of January 21, given to Gen. Scott, on the subject of the final disposition of the Seminole Indians. Should you succeed in reducing them to submission, you will carry into effect the measures directed in that letter. The Tennessee troops will be armed, and I presume that you have ere this procured a sufficient quantity of arms for the use of such of your militia as, from time to time, may be called into service. Colonel Bomford will correspond with you on the subject of arms and ammunition. General Towson has directed a paymaster to proceed immediately to Tallahassee, who, I presume, will have reached there before you receive this letter. He will pay all the militia and volunteers who have been, or may be, in the service of the United States. General Towson will communicate with you upon this subject. I understand that Captain Shannon is at Tallahassee, with full authority to make all payments on account of the Quartermaster's Department. The acting Quartermaster General will inform you of his arrangements. The Commissary General of Subsistence will also communicate with you on the subject of provisions; and all requisitions which you may find it necessary to make upon the officers of the various departments, in order to carry on your operations, will be promptly complied with. All the necessary means will be placed at their disposal. The Surgeon General will, in like manner, communicate with you.

You were, some time since, informed that arrangements were made for the employment of five steamboats, and for having a part of these manned by seamen from the navy. You will perceive that, in my instructions to General Scott, I have requested him to allow one or more of these boats to ply in such places as you may direct. I would recommend that you correspond with him upon this point, and also with the proper naval officer. Should you, however, not receive the aid of these boats, and should require them, you will procure them elsewhere if practicable; and should you find boats of other descriptions necessary, you are at liberty to have them pur-

chased or constructed, and, indeed, to procure whatever else may be necessary to your operations, and in accordance with the usages of the service.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department, *June* 25, 1836.

Sir: I enclose, for your information, copies and extracts of letters from Major General Scott, in which he makes his suggestions respecting the preparations that will be necessary for conducting the campaign against the Seminole Indians during the next autumn. As you have recommended an expedition against those Indians the present summer, and have received authority and means to undertake it, it would not be proper for the department at this time to direct any preliminary arrangements looking to operations hereafter. As, however, an expedition of this nature must be necessarily uncertain in its results, it is proper to refer the whole matter to you, the command in Florida being vested in you, to cause such preparations to be made for the subjugation of the Seminole Indians as the circumstances of the country and the nature of the warfare may require. This subject is therefore committed to your discretion; and should you find that a renewal of operations will be necessary hereafter, you will then please to proceed to have all such arrangements made as you may deem necessary to their speedy and successful issue. You will have before you the suggestions of General Scott, and, after considering them, you will determine for yourself what preparations may be required, and take your measures accordingly. The various staff officers will procure such supplies as you may require; and should articles be wanted which cannot be furnished in Florida, arrangements must be made for procuring them where they can be got upon the best terms. In cases where the expenditures will be considerable, and where supplies can probably be obtained upon better terms in the Atlantic cities, and transported to Florida in season for your operations, you had better correspond with the chiefs of the military bureaus at this place, and request them to have the articles procured and forwarded. If steamboats are purchased under the recent authority to employ them upon the Gulf of Mexico, and upon the rivers running into it, they can be used in the operations against the Seminoles, as it is to be presumed that the Creek difficulties will be over before the autumn. If hired only for the above purpose, the contract will be continued, or they must be purchased, at your discretion. As to the establishment of posts, the collection of depots of provisions, the means of transportation, and the preparations of all other articles and supplies which may be required for these anticipated operations, you will make such arrangements as you may deem proper, the moment you become satisfied that the state of things will require these arrangements. The whole subject is committed to you. If the Indians are not subdued previously, a vigorous effort must be made to terminate these hostilities as soon as the heats of summer are over; and they must, under any circumstances, be put an end to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July* 11, 1836.

SIR: I enclose, for your information, the copy of a letter this day addressed to General Jesup; and have to request that you would communicate your views to him on the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July* 19, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, communicating your plan of operations for the reduction of the Seminoles.

In answer to your request that 250 or 300 seamen and marines may be furnished from the squadron, I have to state that Commodore Dallas has received ample instructions and authority from the Navy Department to comply with your requisitions. And as it is probable that the boats on the Chattahoochee will not long be required there, I would suggest that you communicate with General Jesup upon the subject of transferring them to any point at which you think they will be of service.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July* 20, 1836.

SIR: I beg leave, respectfully, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant.

I avail myself of this occasion to correct an error in the phraseology of my letter of yesterday. Instead of saying that Commodore Dallas has been instructed to comply with your requisitions, the remark should have been, that he had been instructed to co-operate with you. This correction is necessary to prevent any misconception of the relations of that officer to yourself.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July* 28, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 15th instant, with the general order of General Scott, of July 2, directing the Tennessee volunteers to be mustered into service for three months.

I have the honor to state, in reply, that these troops were directed, in the first instance, to be received for twelve months; but, at the instance of Governor Cannon, they were mustered for six months. For a shorter term the law would not permit them to be accepted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 3, 1836.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 21st ultimo, transmitting Captain Lee's report of the action at Micanopy.

Your recommendation that brevets should be conferred upon this officer and Lieutenants Humphreys and Talcott will be laid before the President, upon his return to this city.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 15, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, with its enclosures.

In answer to the latter part of your communication, I have the honor to enclose you copies of my letters to you, of July 19 and 20, on the subject of your request for seamen to aid you in an expedition up the Withlacoochie river.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 25, 1836.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th instant, with its enclosures.

This department has no control over the revenue cutters. By law, the President is authorized to transfer them from the Treasury to the Navy Department, when the public interest requires that measure. They will remain, then, subject to the control of the Navy Department. As the cutters which have been transferred have been regularly attached to the naval command, I feel unwilling to ask the Navy Department to detach them therefrom, as such a step would seem to reflect upon the commanding officer.

Permit me to recommend your frankly corresponding with Captain Dallas; and I cannot but think that that officer will take, upon your suggestion, all such measures as the public interest may seem to demand. Should you find it indispensable that some vessel should be under your immediate direction, would it not be better to employ one of the steamboats already engaged, or to procure another for that purpose?

I agree with you as to the propriety of checking the intercourse between the Spanish fishermen and the Indians, and I trust that yourself and Commodore Dallas will both take all the measures in your power to effect that object.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *September* 17, 1836.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing the report of Major Pierce, of the action at Micanopy, and communicating the intelligence of Captain Shannon's death.

The vacancy occasioned by the decease of Captain Shannon has been filled by the appointment of Lieutenant Pichell, who will be ordered to report to you for duty.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *October* 7, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 18th ultimo, in which you enclose copies of letters from yourself to Commodore Dallas and General Jesup, and have submitted them to the President; who has instructed me to say that, as far as he understands the localities, the plan of operations you have determined on, as developed in the letter to General Jesup, seems to him judicious.

In regard to that portion of your letter to General Jesup in which you censure the department for not acting "with the promptness and energy which the importance of the case required," in respect to a suggestion of yours, that Commodore Dallas should be instructed to guard the coast of Florida, so as to prevent all intercourse between the Indians and traders, I have to observe that it is deemed highly indecorous, improper, and unjust. You cannot but be aware that this department has no control over naval operations; and all it can do, in a case like that in question, is to bring the subject before the proper branch of the Executive, and suggest the propriety of the appropriate measures being taken. There has been no instance where this has not been done by this department, with all the promptness and energy which the case has demanded; and your assumption to the contrary is entirely groundless. Nor is it believed that the Navy Department

has failed in any instance to act with as much promptitude and vigor as the circumstances required, and a true regard to the public interest committed to its charge would permit. Full and positive instructions have been repeatedly given to Commodore Dallas, by the Secretary of the Navy, to co-operate with you, with all the measures in his power, in putting an end to the Seminole hostilities.

Equally groundless and inappropriate is your censure of the department respecting the "crazy steamboats." Forming an opinion from your own communications, it was merely suggested that the employment of one of the Government steamboats might be useful for the purpose in view. This department certainly had no expectation that you would, in acting on the suggestion, select a "crazy" one; the more especially, as you had already been invested with full power to buy or charter, according to circumstances, whatever vessels might be necessary for your marine operations.

This letter has been seen and approved by the President.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *October* 10, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ultimo, enclosing copies of letters from Major Pierce to you; one of which relates to the want of officers in Florida. Measures will be immediately taken to remedy the evils complained of in this letter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *October* 15, 1836.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 23d ultimo, transmitting a copy of Colonel Warren's report of the action between the troops under his command and a party of Indians on the 18th September.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *November* 4, 1836.

Sir: On the 29th ultimo a rumor reached this city, through the Charleston papers, that you had marched, with the troops under your immediate command, to the Withlacoochie, and there discovered the enemy in consid-

erable force; and that, instead of crossing the river and attacking him, you had fallen back upon Fort Drane to obtain provisions. From the tenor of your last despatch, under date of October 10th, in which you stated that Major Pierce had united with you the day before, making your force thirteen hundred and fifty strong, and bringing seven days' rations for the whole army; that, with these supplies, you intended marching to the Withlacoochie, in the hope of encountering the enemy in his stronghold; and that the depots at Volusia, and at the mouth of the Withlacoochie, would afford the means of replenishing your supplies, it was confidently hoped that this rumor would prove erroneous. It was, however, substantially confirmed by various communications received during the early part of the present week, which also gave us the additional intelligence that Col. Lane, with the regulars and friendly Indians under his command, after marching from Tampa Bay to the Withlacoochie, had also retired to Fort Drane; that the Tennessee brigade, having sustained a serious loss in horses, and being destitute of forage, had been moved to Black creek; and that, in consequence of these untoward events, and for the want of horses, transportation, and supplies, your operations are likely to be suspended for several weeks. The mails since, though they have not brought us any communications from yourself, have furnished ample details as to all these events; which have been still further elucidated by the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell, lately of your staff, who, it appears, had been despatched to this place and Philadelphia on business connected with the replenishing of your supplies. That officer also reports that, at the time of his departure, you were suffering severely from sickness and fatigue.

In the mean time the preparation of such orders from this department, as the exigency of the case requires, has been deferred in the hope of receiving your official report; but the mail of the last night having failed to bring it, it is deemed indispensable to the public interest to take, without further delay, such measures as appear to be required by the facts within the knowledge of the department.

Although no definitive judgment has been formed as to the occurrences above referred to, I am yet instructed by the President to express to you his disappointment and surprise that you should have commenced the execution of a campaign of so much importance, and so long meditated, without first taking effectual measures to secure all needful supplies from the various depots, which, for several months, have been subject to your orders; and, above all, that, after approaching with so large a force within so short a distance of the enemy, and finding him apparently disposed to give battle, you should have retired without a more serious attempt to cross the river and to drive him from his position. This disappointment and regret are greatly increased by the considerations that these retrograde movements will probably have the effect to expose the frontiers to new invasions by marauding parties, and to encourage the Indians in their resistance, thereby increasing, beyond what might otherwise have been needed, the severity of the measures which will now be required to subdue them. It is due to these considerations, and also to the army and to yourself, that the circumstances connected with your late movements should be distinctly explained; and in case you shall not have transmitted a full report on the subject before the receipt of this communication, you will do so without delay. In the mean time, it is hoped that the army will soon be prepared to resume offensive operations; but as there is reason to fear that the state

of your health will not allow you to finish the campaign with the promptitude and energy which the crisis demands, the President deems it expedient to relieve you from the command. By his direction I have, therefore, this day instructed Major General Jesup, if he shall not already have united with you, to do so at once, or to communicate with you on the subject without delay, and thereupon to assume the command of the army serving in Florida, which you will accordingly be pleased to transfer to him. A copy of the despatch to him is herewith transmitted to you, and the original is borne by the same messenger who will deliver you this communication.

Should General Jesup not be at your headquarters on the arrival of the messenger, you will take the earliest measures to despatch him to the place where you shall have the best reasons to suppose that officer will be found with the utmost expedition; and, in the mean time, you will make all such dispositions as may be in your power for promoting the plan of the campaign prescribed in the instructions to General Jesup; and after he shall have relieved you, you will also be pleased to co-operate, so far as the state of your health and your other engagements may allow, in the execution of his duties.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Copy of despatch of the War Department to General Jesup, referred to in letter dated 4th November, 1836.

War Department, *November* 4, 1836.

Sir: Before this communication reaches you, you will have become fully acquainted with the retrograde movements of Governor Call, and the other events connected therewith, which have recently occurred in Florida. These circumstances have for a time suspended offensive operations; and from the feeble state of Governor Call's health, it is to be feared that he will not be able to prosecute the campaign, when resumed, with that promptitude and energy which the crisis demands. The President has therefore determined to commit to you the command of the army serving in Florida, and the general direction of the war against the Seminoles.

You will, accordingly, on the receipt of this communication, should you then be at Governor Call's headquarters, and, if not, so soon as you can reach there, or can communicate with him, assume the command of all the forces in the Territory.

The hostile Indians having been discovered in considerable force on the banks of the Withlacoochie, and it having been also ascertained that their principal camps and settlements are situated on the south side of that river, you will immediately make all suitable arrangements for a vigorous attack on their strongholds, and for penetrating and occupying the whole country between the Withlacoochie and Tampa Bay. With a view to this end, you will first establish posts at or near the mouth of the Withlacoochie, at Fort King, and at Volusia; and you will take the proper measures for securing, through them, the safety of the frontier. You will, also, through the

same posts, and by such means of transportation as may be most certain and economical, make permanent arrangements for procuring permanent and regular supplies. So soon as those dispositions shall be completed, you will concentrate all your disposable forces, and proceed without delay to cross the Withlacoochie, and to possess yourself of the positions now occupied by the Indians; attacking and routing them in their strongholds, and scouring the whole country between the Withlacoochie and Tampa Bay.

Should you succeed in bringing the Indians to a general engagement, and in defeating them therein, the ready submission of the tribe may probably be expected. If, however, they should abandon their present position on the Withlacoochie before you reach it, or you should drive them from it without entirely subduing them, you will then take such advanced positions to the south of Volusia, and to the east and south of Tampa Bay, as the nature of the country may admit, and push from them such further operations as may be necessary to the most speedy and effectual subjugation of the enemy.

The above direction to attack the enemy in his strongholds, and to possess yourself of the country between the Withlacoochie and Tampa Bay, you will regard as a positive order, to be executed at the earliest practicable moment. In other respects, you will exercise a sound discretion, and will adopt such measures as you may deem best calculated to protect the frontier, and to effect the subjugation and removal of the Indians.

Great confidence being reposed in your prudence, energy, and skill, it is deemed unnecessary to urge you to promptitude or activity, or to impress on you the importance of early and frequent communications.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

Major General T. S. JESUP,
United States Army, Florida.

[Note appended to the foregoing letter.]

NOTE.—A postscript was added to the original letter of General Jesup, acknowledging letters received from him after the preparation of the above, and enclosing a communication from the acting Quartermaster General; but as it is believed that this postscript was not included in the copy sent to Governor Call, it is not now sent.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December* 30, 1836.

SIR: I have this day had the honor to receive, and to lay before the President, your communication of the 2d instant, with the accompanying copy of a report, addressed by you to the Secretary of War on the 19th of October, the original of which has never reached the department; and, as it has not been alluded to in any communication heretofore received from you, it was not until this day that the department had any intimation that such a report was made.

The several topics embraced in your last communication will receive an early and deliberate consideration.

In the mean time, I hasten to correct certain erroneous impressions which you appear to have imbibed to the prejudice of an officer referred to in my

letter of the 4th ultimo. Speaking of that communication, you observe "it informed me of a rumor which had reached Washington very unfavorable to my conduct and military character. It reminds me of the means, and supposed means, I possessed of achieving a victory over the enemy; of the unwillingness of the department to credit the rumor; but that it had been *substantially confirmed by various communications* received, further 'elucidated' by the verbal statement of Lieutenant Mitchell, late of my staff," &c. In a subsequent part of your letter you again allude to this officer, and make the following observations and statements: "As to the rumor, it is intangible, and I shall say nothing about it. Nor are the communications which you mention as having been received entitled, in my estimation, to higher credit, as they must have been destitute of truth; for Lieutenant Mitchell, who seems to have 'elucidated' the whole matter, and whom you seem to have considered as a member of my staff, sent on to Washington and Philadelphia by me on business connected with the replenishing of my supplies, I must say, if he made such representations, he was truly unfortunate in communicating facts. For the want of an ordnance officer, so often complained of to the department by the officers in command in Florida, I appointed Mr. Mitchell to take charge of the ammunition; in the same order, my staff was announced to the army. He marched with us from Suwanee Old Town, and lived in the family of General Armstrong, until a few days before our return from the Withlacoochie to Fort Drane, when he came into the mess with myself and staff. On our arrival at the latter place, he applied for permission to go to Black creek, which was readily granted.

"He suggested that he might be of service in procuring and forwarding the clothing and blankets which I intended to order the quartermaster at Black creek to purchase for the friendly Indians, as it had been represented by their commander that they were in great want of those articles. At Black creek I understood he applied to one of my aids, then at this place, for an order to proceed to Charleston and Philadelphia to make those purchases. This was done without my knowledge, and certainly very contrary to my intention, as I did not wish him to go further than Black creek. He has forwarded no clothing for the Indians, nor has he made any report of his proceedings. I have to request that this officer may be ordered, without delay, to join his company at Fort Clinch, on the Withlacoochie. As to his having been sent by me to replenish my supplies, the statement is erroneous.

"The Indians were almost naked, and I felt it my duty to have them clothed on the requisition of their commander."

That part of my letter of the 4th of November, referred to in the passages above quoted, is in the following words:

"On the 29th ultimo, a rumor reached this city, through the Charleston papers, that you had marched with the troops under your immediate command to the Withlacoochie, and there discovered the enemy in considerable force; and that, instead of crossing the river and attacking him, you had fallen back upon Fort Drane to obtain provisions.

"From the tenor of your last despatch, under date of October 10th, in which you stated that Major Pierce had united with you the day before, making your force thirteen hundred and fifty strong, and bringing seven days' rations for the whole army; that with these supplies you intended marching to the Withlacoochie, in the hope of encountering the enemy in his strongholds; and that the depots at Volusia and at the mouth of the

Withlacoochie would afford the means of replenishing your supplies, it was confidently hoped that this rumor would prove erroneous. It was, however, substantially confirmed by various communications received during the early part of the present week, which also gave us the additional intelligence that Colonel Lane, with the regulars and friendly Indians under his command, after marching from Tampa Bay to the Withlacoochie, had also retired to Fort Drane; that the Tennessee brigade, having sustained a serious loss in horses, and being destitute of forage, had been moved to Black creek; and that, in consequence of these untoward events, and for the want of horses, transportation, and supplies, your operations are likely to be suspended for several weeks.

"The mails since, though they have not brought us any communications from yourself, have furnished ample details as to all these events; which have been still further elucidated by the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell, late of your staff, who, it appears, had been despatched to this place and to Philadelphia on business connected with the replenishing of your supplies. That officer also reports that, at the time of his departure, you were suffering severely from sickness and fatigue.

"In the mean time, the preparation of such orders from this department, as the exigency of the case requires, has been deferred in the hope of receiving your official report; but the mail of the last night having failed to bring it, it is deemed indispensable to the public interest to take, without further delay, such measures as appear to be required by the facts within the knowledge of the department."

On a more careful perusal of this extract, you will perceive that my letter did not inform you that any *rumor* "unfavorable to your conduct or military character" had been *elucidated* by the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell. The observation is, that certain events, in respect to which ample details had been furnished by the mails received at Washington prior to the 4th of November, had been further elucidated by the verbal statements of that officer. There is nothing in this expression which can warrant you in inferring, as you seem to have done, that the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell were derogatory to your character, or that he had given countenance to any rumor of that nature.

But it is due to Lieutenant Mitchell that this correction should not be confined to a mere exposition of the erroneous character of the inferences you have drawn from the language of the department. As an act of simple justice to him, I have to inform you that he made no statements in respect to any such rumors. Having called on me, in my official capacity as acting head of the War Department, on the business with which he was charged, I proposed to him such inquiries in regard to the events which had then recently occurred in Florida, and to the actual position of affairs when he left the army, as were calculated to obtain any information which he might be able to communicate. His replies were characterized not only by perfect respect towards yourself, but apparently by great candor. He placed in my possession a newspaper article, originally addressed to the editor of the Florida Herald, and published in an extra number of that paper of the 21st of October, and referred to it as a full and accurate account, so far as it extended, from the pen of one of your own aids. His verbal statements corresponded with that article, but brought down the account to a few days later; and gave the additional intelligence, mentioned in my letter, as to the state of your health at the time of his departure.

You will also perceive, on a more careful examination of the extract, that it does not represent Lieutenant Mitchell as one of your staff at the time of his communication to the department, nor does it allege that he had been sent on *by you* on business connected with your supplies; the suggestion is, that he was *lately* of your staff, and that he had been despatched to this place and to Philadelphia, &c., without saying by whom. The passage above quoted from your last communication substantially confirms this suggestion; to which it should be added, that he was also charged with a requisition from General Armstrong for clothing for the Tennessee brigade.

A copy of that part of this letter which relates to Lieutenant Mitchell will be transmitted to that officer; and it is not doubted that you will take pleasure in extending to him the like justice which you invoke for yourself.

B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January* 14, 1837.

SIR: In my letter of the 30th ultimo, I had the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on that day, of your communication of the 2d of same month, and to reply to so much of it as related to Lieutenant Mitchell. Pursuant to the assurance then given, I now proceed to notice, so far as deemed just to you, or necessary in other respects, the several topics embraced in your letter.

You have been pleased to characterize the communication addressed to you on the 4th of November last as a document in the highest degree extraordinary and unjust; and the excited feeling likely to be produced by such an impression is displayed in every part of your reply. Under the influence of this feeling, you indulge in many remarks not at all necessary to the explanation of your conduct, or the defence of your character. You charge the President and the department with the injustice, not only of condemning you unheard, but of inflicting on you, without proof, and on mere rumor, the severest penalty which the case admitted. You impute to us the mockery, after thus visiting you with all the consequences of actual guilt, of calling for an explanation of your conduct; and you more than once intimate doubts as to the willingness of either to repair, even after the clearest demonstrations, the wrongs we may have committed. For reasons which, in your cooler moments, will readily occur to you, no reply will be made to these parts of your communication.

It is believed that all your exceptions to the language and directions of my letter are founded on an erroneous view of its true scope. The object of that paper was two-fold: *first*, to require an explanation of the causes which led to the failure of the movement made by the troops under your command in the month of October last; and, *secondly*, to transfer the command of the forces serving in Florida, and the general direction of the war against the Seminoles, to General Jesup. For each of these measures, distinct and, as it was thought, ample grounds were stated by the department. In your reply, you have not discriminated between these two purposes: you treat the whole as a censure, or rather as a punishment, for presumed misconduct; and, to sustain this view, you entirely overlook the

particular reasons on which the various parts of the communication proceeded.

In giving you the views of the President and of the department on the material points discussed in your reply, the original order and design of my letter will be carefully adhered to.

The propriety of the call for explanation must be determined by the circumstances known to the department at the time when it was made. These were briefly enumerated in my letter, as derived, not from rumor, nor from unfriendly communications, but from various authentic sources, to which, in the absence of any report from you, we were obliged to have recourse. Of these statements, that which was most relied upon, so far as it proceeded, was the account addressed by one of your own aids to the editor of the Florida Herald, and originally published in that paper. But, as no report had been received from yourself, it was thought to be due to your station and personal character, that the general grounds on which the action of the department was founded, and the reasons which led to it, in the absence of such a report, should be distinctly suggested in the instructions. The rumor from the Charleston newspapers, being the first intimation which reached us of the failure of your movement on the Withlacoochie, was referred to as introductory of the subject; but the measures directed by the President were expressly placed on the various confirmatory accounts subsequently received.

It is a sufficient answer to all your objections to the nature of this evidence, that it was the best within the reach of the department; and that it came from so many sources, and was so corroborated by undoubted facts, as to be worthy of full credit. A further, and, if it were needed, a still more decisive answer is to be found in the fact, that, of the various circumstances stated in my letter, there is not one which is not substantially admitted in your communication of the 2d ultimo, or in the enclosed copy of your still missing despatch of the 19th of October.

The case presented two prominent particulars, each of which excited disappointment, surprise, and regret. The first was, that, with such ample means and such abundant time for adequate preparation, you should have commenced your forward movement to the enemy's strong holds, without taking effectual measures to secure the needful supplies; and the second, that a more serious attempt had not been made, after coming up with the enemy, to cross the river, and to drive him from his position. That these points were well calculated to produce such emotions in the mind of the President, no one better knows than yourself. Your correspondence with the department up to and including your last despatch (that of October 10th) had authorized other and very different expectations. That the public would entertain the like feelings, and would not be satisfied without full explanation on both subjects, was equally plain. For these and other reasons, briefly stated in my letter, you were required to transmit a detailed report of all the circumstances connected with your movements. That this call was well warranted by the existing posture of affairs is a point too obvious to need remark: you have yourself conceded it, by giving a minute and elaborate explanation. Its sufficiency is therefore the only matter which, under this head, is yet to be considered.

The various facts detailed in your report, in respect to the measures taken by you to secure the necessary supplies while operating on the Withlacoochie, have been maturely weighed by the President and the

department. We concur with you in thinking that you had good reason to expect, when you marched from Fort Drane on the 9th of October, that the depot previously ordered to be established by General Read at Graham's Camp would be completed by at least the 16th of October; and we are also satisfied that the causes which prevented the establishment of that particular depot at that time are by no means to be imputed to any act or omission of yours. This remark, however, must not be understood as sanctioning your complaints against the naval officers employed in navigating the steamboats, the justice of which, on the facts now in possession of the department, is not perceived.

In thus explicitly exonerating you from any responsibility for the failure of General Read's efforts to establish the depots in question, the fullest measure of justice to which you are entitled is believed to have been awarded you. But it is due to candor, and is called for by the peculiar language of your letter, to say that it yet remains to be regretted that you should have marched from Fort Drane with so scanty a supply of provisions before you had ascertained that the projected depot—a depot so indispensable to the success of your movement—had been actually established. The direction to General Read involved several distinct measures, and its accomplishment was very liable to be defeated by accidents beyond his control. There seems, therefore, to have been a want of due caution in moving to a position where you would be thrown on him for the subsistence of your force, without first knowing that his supplies would certainly be accessible. On the other hand, it is not doubted that the error of judgment above imputed to you had its origin in the ardent desire of yourself and of the troops under your command to meet the enemy, and to hasten the conclusion of the war. Under these patriotic impulses, it is perhaps not strange that you should have counted with too much confidence on the efforts of General Read, and should have overlooked the contingencies by which they were liable to be defeated. All this is cheerfully allowed by the President, and I take pleasure in stating it. More than this, with the views now entertained by the department, it seems to us impossible, consistently with justice, to concede. And with respect to your general operations, it is still a subject of disappointment and regret, considering the time and means allowed you, that more effectual measures were not taken for securing such supplies as might have enabled you, on commencing offensive operations, to maintain the positions to which you might advance, and to prosecute the campaign with steadiness and vigor. The delay which this would have required might better have been incurred than to risk the far greater delay and the other injurious consequences of a retrograde.

The circumstances set forth in your communication for the purpose of explaining your retirement from the river, without a more serious attempt to cross it, have also been deliberately considered. The conclusions of the President and of the department on this part of the case, if not so favorable as you desire, are yet sufficiently so to exempt yourself and the army under your command from the imputations which you suppose to be implied in the call for explanation. At the same time, it is my duty to remind you that the passage of the Withlacoochie was effected on the 16th of October (only a day or two after you abandoned the attempt) by Colonel Lane, with the regulars and Indians under his command, at a place about three miles

from your encampment. It was also accomplished on the 13th of November by your own army.

These facts prove that the difficulties of the passage, though doubtless, at all times, very great, were not insuperable. Cogent and, perhaps, sufficient reasons for the abandonment of the enterprise on your first movement are, however, to be found in your total want of provisions (except such as your men would not use) and other supplies, and in the great loss of horses which your troops had sustained; but this only increases our regret at the original cause of these untoward circumstances. Had you been as well supplied on the 13th of October as you were on the 18th of November, neither the river nor the arms of the enemy would have prevented the accomplishment of your great purpose—the encountering of the Indians in the cove of the Withlacoochie. Before I leave this point, it is proper I should observe, that, in speaking of your movements as "*retrograde*," reference was had, not to your march along the river in quest of the expected depot, but to the retirement of the army to Fort Drane and Black creek—the former thirty miles, and the latter near one hundred, from the Withlacoochie. It is in this sense, also, that the expression is used in the despatch to General Jesup; and you will allow me to express my surprise at the erroneous construction you have given it, and, still more, at the strictures upon it in which you have thought proper to indulge.

The transfer of the command to General Jesup, when properly understood, will be seen to have been not only right, but unavoidable. Throughout your letter, you have treated this step as a removal for misconduct. This feature of your letter, and the animadversions and complaints connected with it, are the more extraordinary, since, in the communication to yourself, and in that of the same date to General Jesup (a copy of which was enclosed to you), the transfer of the command to the latter was expressly attributed to the apprehension that you might not be able, in your then feeble state of health, to finish the campaign with the promptitude and energy demanded by the crisis. In no part of your communication have you once alluded to this fact, or to the weighty considerations connected with it, as the assigned and sufficient reason for changing the command, although it appears, from your own statements, that the account of your sickness given to the department was strictly true; nor do you seem to have recollected that it was originally designed, and so made known to you at an early day, that the command should be taken by General Jesup on his arrival in Florida. It is true, the department afterward acceded to the very liberal suggestion of that officer, that, as you had prepared the plan of the campaign, you should be allowed to conduct it; and, had the condition of things remained unaltered, this arrangement, probably, would not have been interfered with. But their condition had been entirely changed by the retirement of the army from the Withlacoochie; the suspension of offensive operations; the want of an official report from you; the short period remaining for the service of the Tennessee volunteers; the necessity produced by that cause, and by other considerations, for the utmost promptitude; and, above all, by your own severe sickness. Under these circumstances, and knowing, as we did, that General Jesup had arrived in Florida, with what propriety could the campaign have been left, at a juncture so critical, to the contingencies of your recovery? How could it be foreseen that you would survive? or, if you survived, that you would be able in due season, or at any time, to take the field? On a more dispassionate view of this part of the

case, you cannot help perceiving that, in the language you have used in respect to it, you have done the President great injustice; and I trust you will be convinced that the measure in question, at the time and under the circumstances referred to, was not merely an act of prudence, but of imperious duty.

In answer to your request for a court of inquiry, it is, perhaps, sufficient to remark that, as you are not now in the military service of the United States, it is believed there is no authority to organize such a court; and, even if the power were clear, the President is of opinion that there exists no adequate cause for its exercise. The call upon you for explanation has been fully complied with. No difference exists as to any material fact; and though he is obliged, upon your own statement, to impute to you the errors of judgment abovementioned, yet he does not deem them of such a character as to demand any further investigation. Should you, on the receipt of this letter, still desire a court of inquiry, you will please repeat your request, and it shall receive a fuller consideration.

Before closing this letter, I am instructed to inform you that the efficient measures taken to redeem the time lost by the failure of your first movement, and the energy, fortitude, and courage, displayed by all the forces under your command on resuming the campaign, and especially in the several engagements in the cove of the Withlacoochie and the Wahoo swamp, as stated in your report of the 27th of November, have received, as they deserve, the high approbation of the President. It is also due to you to add that General Jesup, in despatches received from him, has borne testimony, in the strongest manner, to the merits of your general plan of operations, and to the efficiency of the measures in progress when he assumed the command. The first of these despatches which came to hand was published by the department, as an act of justice to yourself, in the Globe newspaper of the 27th ultimo.

Since commencing this communication, a resolution has been received from the Senate, calling for your explanatory letter. Its transmission to that body will supersede the necessity of a compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 20th ultimo.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER.
Secretary of War, ad interim.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

P. S.—The President's directions for the preparation of this letter were given some time since, and it was commenced on the day of its date; but, from the pressure of matters in the department requiring immediate action, and of my other official duties, its completion has necessarily been delayed.

JANUARY 20, 1837.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February* 20, 1837.

SIR: In reply to an inquiry contained in your letter of the 5th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you, that your official despatch of the 27th of November was received on the 10th of December last, and immediately delivered to the Adjutant General, with directions to cause it to be published

entire in the Globe newspaper; which was accordingly done. These directions were given from a desire to bring before the public, at the earliest moment, the interesting intelligence contained in your communication, and also as an act of justice to yourself, and to the brave men under your command.

The withdrawing of the communication from my immediate possession, for the purpose above stated, combined with various other circumstances, prevented the acknowledgment of its receipt. The publication in the newspaper must, however, have given you a knowledge of the fact soon after the writing of your letter of the 5th ultimo; and in my letter of the 14th ultimo, I had occasion to express the high sense of the services detailed in the despatch itself.

The complaint against Lieutenant L'Engle, contained in your letter of the 20th of December, was referred by me to the acting Quartermaster General, and has been fully investigated by him. Enclosed you have his report; from which you will perceive that you have labored under erroneous impressions as to the conduct of Lieutenant L'Engle. I have not thought it needful to send you the numerous documents transmitted to me by the acting Quartermaster General.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War, ad interim.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

War Department, *March* 13, 1837.

Sir: I had the honor, on the 6th instant, to receive your letter of the 20th of February. As I shall leave the department this day, and as every moment of my time since the receipt of this last communication has been employed in despatching the great amount of business which had accumulated during the latter part of the session of Congress, I find it impossible to reply, in detail, to the various suggestions, arguments, and complaints, presented by you. Nor do I deem it at all necessary that I should do so, as I am content to submit the course of the department towards yourself, so far at least as I am concerned in it, to the enlightened judgment of the public, on the correspondence which has already been had between us.

I think it proper, however, to mention two particulars before I leave the subject. 1st. My letter of the 14th of February was prepared after the fullest consideration on the part of President Jackson, and submitted to him for his approbation before it was finished or sent to you. Some of the points to which you take the strongest exception were inserted at his express suggestion, and the whole letter received his full sanction.

2d. The statement that Colonel Lane had crossed the Withlacoochie only about *three* miles from your encampment, was taken by me from the printed account prepared by one of your aids, and was supposed by me, as well as by the President, to be perfectly correct, until a few days since, when General Armstrong, of Tennessee, informed me, as you have stated in your letter, that it was about twenty-five or thirty miles distant; the mistake, in all probability, was made by the printer, who, doubtless, mistook thirty for three. On my showing the printed account to General Armstrong, he was

entirely satisfied. I proposed to him that he should write me a letter stating the fact, to the end that I might correct the error in a letter to you; and I understood him to assent to this suggestion. His occupations while here, and his early departure, probably prevented him from addressing to me the proposed communication.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War, ad interim.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 17, 1837.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 29th ultimo, on the subject of the issue of rations to the suffering inhabitants of Florida, I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the instructions this day forwarded to Major General Jesup on that subject. The instructions have been directed to General Jesup, at Tampa Bay; but to provide against the contingency of their miscarriage, or his absence from that post, I take the liberty of transmitting you a duplicate of them, which I will thank you to direct and enclose to him.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 26, 1837.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 26th of March last, in reference to the claim of Colonel Wood, for the services of the steamer Minerva, while in the employ of the United States.

In reply, I transmit you a copy of a report of the acting Quartermaster General on this subject. For the reasons stated in this report, the department cannot consent to an adjustment of Colonel Wood's claim till the steamer Lieutenant Izard shall have been surrendered unconditionally to the United States. Then, also, will that gentleman's claim for salvage be taken into consideration, and not sooner.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 4, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter to General Jesup, in reference to the system of relief to the suffering inhabitants of Florida.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *September* 5, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, in reference to the employment of a brigade of mounted volunteers from the State of Kentucky, during the next campaign against the Seminoles.

The force already engaged will preclude the necessity of employing so large a force of mounted men; and I regret, therefore, that this circumstance deprives the department of the power to avail itself of the patriotic disposition of the citizens of Kentucky, and of your own valuable services.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *October* 13, 1837.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 26th ultimo, in reference to the non-payment of certain troops, mentioned by you, in Middle and West Florida; and I transmit you a report of the Paymaster General upon the subject.

When the muster-rolls of the troops shall been transmitted to this department, the proper order respecting their payment will be promptly given.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *October* 31, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, in reference to the suffering condition of the inhabitants of the counties of Washington and Walton, West Florida, and advising that you had ordered provisions to be issued for their temporary relief. These issues will be allowed; and the superintendent of the system of relief in Florida, who has been furnished with a copy of your letter, has been directed to confer with General Jesup, and, if that officer thinks it proper, to despatch an agent to the district of country in question, to attend to the issue of rations to the inhabitants, in conformity with the regulations recently prescribed.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *November* 16, 1837.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 27th ultimo, and its enclosures, and, in reply, have the honor to inform you that a paymaster has recently

been sent to Florida, with instructions to pay all troops legally entitled to compensation from the United States. I trust your excellency will experience no further difficulty from the subject.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *December* 30, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, in respect to paying certain Florida troops, and, in reply, to transmit you a report of the Paymaster General, with a copy of the act of Congress to which it alludes.

The appropriation law, which provides the only funds out of which a payment of this kind could be made, restricts the application of the money to such troops only as have been called out either by the General commanding in Florida, or under the express authority of the President of the United States; whereas, it would appear, from the information now in the possession of the department, that the troops, whose payment you seek to effect, were called out by you subsequent to the period when you ceased to command the army in Florida. Full explanations of the necessity and manner of calling these troops into the service, are therefore necessary, and these will be immediately asked of General Jesup.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January* 10, 1838.

SIR: In order that you may make it known to the inhabitants of the counties of Washington and Walton, and advise them to return to the cultivation of their farms, I have the honor to inform your excellency that subsistence will not be furnished to them beyond the 15th of next month.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *April* 25, 1838.

SIR: Within the last two or three months, the department has several times received intelligence of depredations committed by the Indians in Middle Florida, and has called the attention of General Jesup to them, and given particular directions for the defence of that portion of the Territory.

Recent information, of further depredations, renders it necessary that some further steps should be taken ; and I have the honor to inform you that the commanding officer in Florida has this day been written to, and directed to send an officer of rank and intelligence to that section, with such part of the regular force as can be spared, for the purpose of preventing a repetition of these depredations ; and, if possible, to capture or destroy the lawless marauders who commit them. The regular force that this officer may be able to take with him, may not be sufficient for the accomplishment of the objects in view, and it may therefore be necessary for him to apply to your excellency for a portion of the militia to aid him. In this event, I am instructed by the President to request that you will place at his disposal such an amount of force, of this description, as he may require, to serve three months, unless sooner discharged.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

War Department, *May* 30, 1838.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, expressing your readiness to comply with the requisition made upon you, by direction of the President, for such militia force as the officer charged with the defence of Middle Florida may find it necessary to call for ; advisory of the flight of the Creek Indians assembled for emigration to the west, of the consequent alarm of the citizens, and of the measures you have taken for their protection, consisting of the employment of a portion of the militia, and of the Appalachicola Indians. These measures, you express a wish, may be approved by the department, under the impression, it is presumed, that such approval will legally entitle the troops so employed to compensation from the United States.

The laws relating to the employment of the militia and volunteers prohibit the payment of any by the Government except those regularly mustered into, or out of, the service of the United States, under directions from the President, the Secretary of War, or a general officer of the regular army, so that the formal approval by the department of the measures alluded to would not effect the object for which, it is inferred, you deem it.

The only way, therefore, in which the department could legally bind itself for the payment of the troops in question, would be, to have mustered into the service those still employed, and to have mustered out those who have been dismissed, if they would assemble for that purpose ; and General Taylor, who has full power, under his instructions, to employ such an amount of force, and to make all other arrangements necessary for the defence of Florida, will be written to, and authorized to adopt the above course.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

War Department, *June* 2, 1838.

Sir: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th ultimo, and its enclosures, on the subject of the appearance of Indians in West Florida, of the fears of the inhabitants of depredations from them, and of their desire to be protected by a military force.

From your letter it appears that your excellency is still under a misapprehension as to the power of the department to make provision for the subsistence and payment of militia called out by you for the defence of Florida. This is not a matter in which the department can exercise its discretion, it being limited to making provision for the maintenance of those troops only which are regularly mustered into the service, and for the payment of those so mustered into, or out of, the service, under directions from the President, the Secretary of War, or a general officer of the United States army. It is still further restricted by the want of means to provide for but a very limited force, as it is with the greatest difficulty that appropriations can be obtained of Congress for even the smallest possible amount of force necessary for the execution of its duty of protecting the inhabitants of Florida and elsewhere. Hence the necessity of vesting the calling out of troops, and taking other measures, involving expense for the defence of Florida only in the general in command there.

Ample authority has been given to General Taylor to take every measure in his power to afford protection to the inhabitants of that territory, as you have already been advised, and it would save time and risk if, in all exigencies of the kind presented in your letter, you would apply to him for the necessary force, when he could either regularly raise additional force, so that it could be maintained and paid without difficulty by the United States, or move to the point, when it is required, a portion of that already in service, and thus save the heavy expense of employing new troops.

Immediately on the receipt of your letter yesterday, General Taylor was advised of the grounds for apprehending disturbances in West Florida; and he will, without doubt, take such measures in reference thereto as the circumstances may require.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

War Department, *June* 9, 1838.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ultimo, enclosing copies of a correspondence between yourself and Colonel Jackson Morton, respecting the non-payment of certain troops of the Territory of Florida that were in service during the years 1836 and 1837.

It was sometime since decided that these troops should be paid by the United States, and Captain Vinton was to have mustered them in order to bring their claim to compensation within the legal powers of the department. The department regrets that he has not been able to execute this duty, and feels called upon to take the most prompt measures in its power to have it

performed, and Major Dearborn will be immediately directed either to attend to it forthwith himself, or to designate some other officer to do so.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 27, 1836.

SIR: I respectfully herewith transmit "general order" No. 34, dated 26th May, 1836.

I am, sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

His Excellency, R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, June 30, 1836.

SIR: Herewith, I respectfully transmit a copy of "general order" No. 43, issued from this office.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

His Excellency, R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 5, 1836.

SIR: I respectfully enclose, for your information, a return of the regular troops serving in Florida on the 31st of May, which, as far as possible, is made up from the several post returns received at this office of that date, and where no such return has been received, the data are derived from the muster-rolls of April, as explained by the note on the face of the return.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

His Excellency, R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 25, 1836.

SIR: I have the pleasure herewith to enclose copies of some of my answers to sundry communications on the subject of *absent* officers, by which you will perceive that it has not been overlooked at this office. I have fre-

quently taken special care to well inform the Secretary of War of the great deficiency of officers for duty in the field, but he decides that objects of internal improvement, surveys, railroads, &c., equally demand his attention; and he will not consent that the absent officers so employed shall be withdrawn and ordered to join their companies; nor do I see that the evil is likely to be soon remedied, severely as it is felt, and as often as it is complained of, by the few officers who are serving with the troops, and commanding in the field.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

His Excellency, Governor CALL,
Commanding U. S. troops in Florida, Tallahassee.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 26, 1836.

SIR: I herewith, respectfully, transmit copies of "order No. 49," and extract of No. 50, which refers to two officers of the army under your command; and shall hereafter forward such as I may suppose would be acceptable, or would have any bearing on the operations in Florida. Will you be pleased to transmit, for the files of this office, copies of the orders you may issue from time to time.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Governor CALL,
Commanding in Florida, Tallahassee.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 10, 1836.

SIR: The following named officers of the army, serving in Florida, have been summoned by Captain Cooper, the special judge advocate of the court of inquiry now in session at Fredericktown, as witnesses in the case ordered to be investigated by that tribunal, pursuant to "general order" No. 65, dated October 3d. The summonses were transmitted to the several officers named, through this office, at the request of the judge advocate:

Captain Drane, 2d artillery; Lieutenant McCrabb, 4th infantry; Lieutenant Betts, 1st artillery.

At the verbal request of Captain Cooper, summonses for Major Lomax, 3d artillery, and Lieutenant G. Morris, 4th infantry, were also forwarded through this office. In addition to the abovenamed officers, the following, not at the time serving with, but belonging to, the Florida troops, have been required to attend; viz:

Brigadier General Eustis, Lieutenant Colonel Bankhead, Colonel Lindsay, Lieutenant J. E. Johnston, Captain Canfield, Captain Waite, (assistant quartermaster) and Captain Morrison.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Governor CALL, *Florida.*

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 8, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, enclosing a copy of order No. 49, and an extract of order No. 50. In conformity with your request, I herewith transmit copies of the general orders heretofore issued by me relative to the Florida army.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding the Army in Florida.

General R. JONES,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 23, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that, in consequence of the extreme unhealthiness of the garrison at Fort Drane, on the recommendation of the surgeon and officers of that post, I have ordered its abandonment so soon as a suitable situation can be selected in its immediate neighborhood.

For the last two months, the sick report has varied from one-half to one-third of the strength of the garrison. There is nothing peculiar in the situation of Fort Drane to recommend it as a military post, and I have no doubt the health of the garrison will be restored by a removal to some place in its immediate vicinity where the troops will be equally as serviceable in defending the frontier.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commanding in Chief.

General R. JONES,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 23, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 30th of June and 5th of the present month, with their enclosures.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commanding in Chief.

General R. JONES,
Adjutant General, U. S. Army, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS, FLORIDA VOLUNTEERS,
Camp near Fort Defiance, December 22, 1835.

SIR: Having heard of the distress and alarms on the frontier, occasioned by Indian depredations, I raised a detachment of two hundred and fifty volunteer mounted-riflemen from my brigade, and, under the orders of the acting governor, proceeded to this border, where I found about the same number of men under the command of Colonel Warren, of the East Florida militia. I have assumed the command of the whole, making my force

about five hundred men. They were raised, however, for only four weeks, and many of them are badly armed and equipped. The services of these troops have been tendered to General Clinch, and accepted, for the prospect of defending the frontier. I can, sir, securely, give you an adequate description of the frontier inhabitants: The whole country between the Suwanee and the St. John's river, for the distance of fifty miles above the Indian boundary, is abandoned; the frontier inhabitants shut up in a few miserable stockade forts, and the Indians traversing the country at will, burning and destroying wherever they appear. Before my arrival, a number of skirmishes had taken place, in which the Indians were invariably successful. A few days since, a detachment of Colonel Warren's command, while on their march in the margin of the Alachua savannah, was attacked by a party of Indians; his baggage guard was defeated, and his baggage captured. Two days after, I marched on the same ground, recovered one wagon, a carryall, and the greater part of the baggage. I had intended to camp that night at a house within one mile of Fort Defiance, formerly called Micanopy, where there was a supply of corn and fodder. When my spies and advanced guard approached, they observed a house on fire; they pressed forward, and found the trail of a small party of Indians leading into a thick hammock; they gave pursuit, and drove them into a pond in which there was a thick undergrowth and a number of trees, in which the Indians were concealed. The volunteers, led by Colonel Read, the brigade inspector, gallantly entered the water and fought most bravely, at half pistol shot, as long as an Indian or the flash of his gun could be seen. When the fight was over, we found but four of the enemy killed—my loss was four wounded; among these were Captain Lancaster, of the first regiment, and George Johnson, of the second regiment of volunteers, while fighting bravely in the front of the action. They are all doing well, except one of the privates, whose wound, I fear, is mortal.

I have this moment received an express informing me that the Indians have crossed the Suwanee river, and are now burning and destroying at the Old Town. Many of my men are drawn from that quarter, and a short distance beyond it. They feel much alarm for the safety of their families, and I much fear many of them will leave me to night. I assure you, sir, the country requires immediate protection, and it cannot be given too promptly.

Yours, respectfully, &c.,

R. K. CALL,

General, Commanding Florida Station.

The PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

TALLAHASSEE, *January* 9, 1836.

MY DEAR GENERAL: In my last I informed you of the situation of the frontier of East Florida. I succeeded, with the volunteers under my command, in driving the enemy within his boundary along the whole line between the Suwanee and St. John's. Having accomplished this important object, we united with General Clinch, who commanded the expedition into the enemy's country, the result of which, I presume, has been communicated to you through the Secretary of War.

The term for which the volunteers engaged having expired, I have returned to this place to obtain from the Government the necessary force to prosecute the war. As yet nothing has been done. When I left Gen. Clinch, on the 3d instant, he could not have brought into the field more than one hundred and fifty effective men. Four additional companies were said to be at Tampa Bay, or on their march from that place to Fort King, but no certain intelligence had been received from them. One hundred and fifty mounted volunteers marched from this place a few days since. I ordered the commanding officer to report himself to General Clinch, by whom they will be employed as a protection to the frontier, until we are prepared for a campaign. To put a prompt and successful termination to this war, we require an army of 2,500 or 3,000 men; about one-third of this force can be raised in the Territory, the balance must consist of regulars and militia from the neighboring States. I shall return to the frontier, in some capacity or other, so soon as I can raise a force of any description. I should be highly gratified to command the army, and believe I could soon bring the war to a close. I fear, however, this I cannot do without injustice to General Clinch; he is a brave and good man, but I fear he is too slow in his movements to conduct a war against the Indians.

I had many difficulties to contend with in my late expedition, and, among others, meeting a desertion among my troops; but the examples I have made of the offenders will have a salutary effect hereafter.

The force of the enemy is variously estimated, by those best informed, at from 1,200 to 2,000 warriors, and it is confidently believed that a large number of Creek Indians have united with them. They are well armed; they are urging a war of extermination, and will fight desperately. The enclosed letter from Captain Fitzpatrick, the president of the legislative council, will inform you of the manner in which arms have been furnished to the Indians. It contains other valuable information, which I beg leave to lay before you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General JACKSON.

Copy of the document referred to in the letter of R. K. Call, of the 9th January, 1836, addressed to General Jackson.

TALLAHASSEE, *January* 8, 1835.

SIR: Previous to my leaving Key West, information was received from Tampa Bay, that a Spanish vessel had landed arms and ammunition in the neighborhood of a Spanish fishery, at Charlotte's harbor, to supply the Indians on the coast. The surgeon of the post at Key West, Dr. Nourse, accompanied Major Dade's company to Tampa, and returned in the transport "Molto," and communicated the information to several persons, and said he got it from Captain William G. Sanders and others at Tampa, and that there was proof of the fact, as he understood from them. I well recollect that, previous to my leaving Key West, I one morning observed a Spanish vessel coming in at the Northwest passage from the direction of Tampa and Charlotte's harbor, which vessel brought no cargo, nor do I know whether or not she carried away any to Cuba. The collector at Key West, near two months previous to this time, had suspended from duty the inspector of customs at

Charlotte's harbor, for refusing spirituous liquors to be landed on the island where he lived, and upon which also a Spanish subject, named Caldez, lives, and who is carrying on a fishery, and has a vessel trading there under Spanish colors, manned in part by Seminole Indians. There is but one citizen of the United States attached to the concern, who is the person that brought the charges against the inspector, and who has been going backward and forward in the Spanish schooner since that time. With this exception, the fishery is carried on by Spaniards and Indians, and is owned by a man named Badia, who lives in Havana. I know that the Spaniards interested in the fisheries have been much dissatisfied on account of the proposed removal of the Indians, and that they have heretofore derived much benefit from the services of the Indians at the fisheries, and on board their vessels, and that this man Caldez is more dreaded by, and has more influence over, the Indians than he ought to have. There being no inspector at this point, and the collector having sent the revenue-cutter to New Orleans, arms and ammunition, or any thing else, in any quantity, could have been landed there at any time with impunity. As the southern section of Florida is very little known, except to the Indians, I take the liberty to offer you such information as a residence of more than twelve years in that section of country has enabled me to obtain.

From Cape Roman, on the west coast, to Cape Sable, and from thence to Cape Florida, are innumerable islands, formed by rivers and creeks running from the Everglade (so called), and having for their source the great Lake Macaco, where the Indians go in their light canoes, and where they have some towns and cornfields. This part of the country is little known to the white man, but the Indians are perfectly acquainted with it, and if they are drawn from their present position, they will certainly go there. I have good authority, upon which I can rely, that many canoes, with women and children, and some men, have been sent there some time ago, and if the warriors are driven there, they can sustain themselves against four-times their number. They can live on the coonty root, which abounds in the vicinity of Cape Florida and New river, and the great abundance of fish and turtle which abound in the rivers and on the seacoast, and which they take in any quantity at pleasure. From Cape Sable to Cape Florida, inside of Key West and the other keys, there is but one white man living who has ever penetrated it and passed through, and it is there the Indians have their hunting-grounds, and from whence they can retire into the islands in the everglades, and can go to the east as far, and even beyond, New river, and to Charlotte's harbor on the west. Steamboats of light draught of water, having small boats of the least possible draught, are the only means by which you can follow the Indians in their canoes. One should go to Cape Florida and proceed east to Indian river, where she can enter and go up to the Lagoon, and the St. Sebastian and St. Lucia rivers. Another should go down through Key Biscayne bay (where the light-house is) and into Barnes's sound, and pass through in boats to Cape Sable; and another should go through from Indian Key to Cape Sable, and proceed along the coast to Cape Roman and Charlotte's harbor. These vessels and boats should, by all means, get pilots at Indian Key, and the neighborhood, who have a knowledge of the navigation, as any person unacquainted will find the greatest difficulty to get along. I am thus particular, because I know much inconvenience and difficulty will occur in the fitting out an expedition to go on a coast so little known, and I am certain that if the In-

dians once get down there, they can sustain themselves for years against a superior force, and that it will be impossible to starve them out.

I very much hope that the Government will see the necessity of destroying those Spanish fisheries, and of prohibiting their vessels from carrying on any trade on the coast. I tender you my services in any way I can be useful in any expedition which may be sent to any part of the Territory.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,

C. FITZPATRICK.

General R. K. Call.

Tallahassee, *April* 20, 1836.

Sir: I have just received from General Scott a copy of his official report of the 12th and 13th instant, made to the Adjutant General of the United States army.

From this document, it is evident that the present campaign will close without terminating the war with the Indians in Florida.

The General expresses the opinion that "the war on our part is in fact scarcely begun."

The militia from the several States will in a few weeks be disbanded, and the regular troops disposed of in the different forts. So soon as this shall occur, the frontier of this territory, for a distance of 200 miles, will be exposed to pillage and massacre by the enemy, who, so far from being subdued by our numerous forces, have been rendered more bold and daring by the success with which they have resisted our power.

The General speaks as though a part of our troops may be sent to Baton Rouge, at the close of the present campaign.

I hope, sir, this measure may not be adopted, as I am well convinced that the whole regular force now in Florida will be insufficient to defend our frontier during the summer.

I feel it my duty to apprize the department that the several posts at which General Scott proposes to leave garrisons will not cover the frontier settlements, and that a large and valuable district of country will be left entirely defenceless.

Fort Drane is the most western point at which he proposes to place a garrison; from thence to St. Mark's is near 200 miles; and the whole seaboard from Tampa Bay to St. Mark's, extending back in the interior to the distance of from 50 to 100 miles, is an entire wilderness without inhabitants. Through this route the enemy may penetrate within twenty miles of this place, without being discovered, or may plunder and destroy the settlements along the whole border, from Fort Drane to this place.

At the commencement of the war, on my own responsibility I established two small posts on the Suwanee river; these have been kept up and are still garrisoned by the militia of the territory. The security of the frontier of Middle Florida requires that they should be maintained so long as the Indian war continues. If regular troops cannot be furnished for this purpose, it must be done by the militia. So confident I am, sir, the frontier will be harassed by the enemy during the whole of the summer, that I feel it my duty to apprize you of the danger, and to ask for the necessary means of giving it protection.

I propose to organize volunteer companies along the whole line of frontier, to be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning to any point which may be assailed. But we are without arms, ammunition, and the means of supplying provisions. The greater part of the arms received by my predecessor from the arsenal at Augusta, were delivered to the Georgia troops, and will not be returned to this place.

I have, therefore, to request that I may, should it be necessary, be authorized to obtain from the arsenal in Alabama or Louisiana a sufficient supply of arms and ammunition, and that I may be furnished with funds to supply provisions and transportation.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 22, 1836.

SIR: The several expeditions fitted out in Florida to operate against the hostile Indians have caused the accumulation of a considerable debt against the Government, both in the Pay and Quartermaster's Departments. I have to request that the necessary funds may be provided for their payment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 28, 1836.

SIR: I enclose you, herewith, a copy of a letter which I have just received from the colonel commanding the militia of Alachua county; from which it will appear that, while our troops are marching and countermarching in the enemy's country, we are invaded by the same enemy.

Only a few days since, a body of 400 well-equipped and well-mounted men from Georgia, furnished on the requisition of General Scott, after marching to the depot on Black Creek, in Florida, without being sent on any service whatever, (as I am informed,) were disbanded and ordered home.

The Florida volunteers, a well-organized and efficient battalion of 300 men, were disbanded one month before their term of service expired; and the day after their arrival here, I received an express informing me that the Indians had reappeared in considerable numbers, and were committing depredations on our frontier settlements. It is evident that the enemy, instead of retreating to the south before the several divisions of General Scott's army, merely evaded them, and remained in their rear, ready to attack the frontier so soon as it should be left unprotected. Many of their warriors are already well mounted; and from their success in capturing horses, as well from the army as from our citizens, they will be enabled in a short time to mount a formidable band.

I have had no communication from General Scott since he marched from Tampa Bay; but there is no hope of his bringing the war to a close

with the forces now in the field. I understand he does not intend making another campaign until the fall. In the mean time, our frontier will be continually exposed to the tomahawk and scalping-knife, and the safety of our people requires the most prompt and efficient measures for their protection. Mounted men alone will be effective in the performance of this duty; and our citizens and their horses have both been so much harassed with the war, that it will be a very difficult matter indeed to procure any considerable number of either during the summer. The line of frontier to be defended will be near three hundred miles in extent, and will require at least 500 horsemen to keep the enemy in check. I have ordered out one hundred from the counties of Alachua and Duval; other companies shall be organized as soon as practicable, and held in readiness to march at a moment's warning. The people of Alachua, you will perceive from the enclosed letter, have been compelled to seek protection in the forts. They will not be able to return to their homes during the summer, and the Government will be compelled to supply them with subsistence. In this state of things, I beg leave to recommend that the women and children should be removed to some place of safety, where they can be more conveniently subsisted than at the little forts on the frontier. When this is done, the men will more willingly engage in the service.

In my last, I mentioned that there were large claims against the Pay and Quartermaster's Departments, which remain unsatisfied. None of our troops have been paid for their services; and many of our citizens have furnished supplies, for which they have received no compensation.

I have to request that the necessary funds for that purpose may be forwarded without delay.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

Document referred to in Governor Call's letter of April 28, 1836, addressed to the honorable Lewis Cass.

NEWNANSVILLE, E. F., *April* 25, 1836.

DEAR SIR: Intelligence has reached me from below, that General Scott has retired with his army to Volusia. The volunteers are discharged, and our frontier will be left in a more dangerous condition than at the commencement of the war.

The Indians have, within a few days past, spread themselves over the country, committing depredations upon the property of our citizens. They have shot a man at Micanopy; have carried off 17 or 18 horses from Fort Drane, under the eyes of the garrison; have taken four of Colonel Humphrey's and two of General Clinch's negroes. Fresh Indian signs are seen daily in the neighborhood of Spring Grove, Micanopy, and other parts of the frontier, which indicate a large body of Indians dispersed in various quarters.

The regular troops who will remain in the country are considered inadequate for its protection. The inhabitants below have fled to the forts again, and some are removing to places more remote from danger. In fact, unless you authorize the raising of a company of men to protect our frontier, the country will, in all probability, be abandoned; for our citizens

feel very little security in committing their families and property to the protection of the regular troops.

In this state of things, I feel it my duty to request that you authorize the raising of one hundred men from East Florida, for the protection of our frontier.

Yours, very respectfully,
F. R. SANCHEZ,
Col. Comd'g. 6th Regiment F. M.

Governor R. K. CALL.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 30, 1836.

SIR: Major Watson, the volunteer aid de camp of General Scott, arrived here last night, and reports that he left the General at the battle-ground of Major Dade; that he was ordered by the General to proceed to Fort King and Fort Drane, and disband such of the Georgia militia as he might find at those places. He says that Colonel Lindsey had been ordered back to Tampa Bay with the Alabama troops, where they would embark immediately for Mobile; and that General Scott was to proceed directly to Volusia, from whence the South Carolina troops would be ordered home. General Scott, he reports, would proceed to St. Augustine, where he would await the further orders of the department. Major Watson fully confirms the intelligence I communicated to you in my last, relative to the exposed and distressed condition of the frontier settlements; and you may rely with confidence on the most disastrous results, unless prompt and efficient measures of defence are adopted.

I am well convinced that it will require almost as many men to protect our frontier as it would to carry the war into the enemy's country. If the means are afforded me by the Government, I will undertake to carry on a summer campaign against the Indians. The women and negroes are engaged in making corn while their warriors are desolating our frontier. If we can succeed in capturing them, the war will soon be brought to a close.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 4, 1836.

SIR: The opinion I have so frequently expressed, in my several communications, relative to the danger to which our frontier settlements are exposed, is now fully confirmed. Two expresses have arrived to day, bringing intelligence that an attack was made by the Indians last night on the plantation of Judge Randall, about twenty-five miles from this place. A negro man was killed and scalped, and two horses and a mule taken and carried off. I have ordered a party in pursuit of the enemy, but as yet no intelligence has been received from it. I shall immediately organize a force for the defence of the frontier; but I have again to request, sir, that I may be furnished with men, arms, and supplies to carry the war into the enemy's country. I assure you, sir, there is no hope of a suspension of the war during the summer; it will be waged by the enemy with all its hor-

sors, and, if it be not carried into the enemy's country, ours will be desolated with fire and sword.

There are no settlements for the distance of twenty-five or thirty miles from the seaboard along the whole coast from St. Mark's to the Bay of Tampa. The intermediate space is a continued wilderness, and the Indians can approach within five miles of this place without being discovered. If there is not a formidable force in the field, I have no doubt but Tallahassee and St. Mark's will be attacked during the summer.

The greater part of the regular force under General Scott, I understand, has been sent to Tampa Bay, where it can be of no service whatever in defending the frontier. All the settlements in that neighborhood having been entirely destroyed, there can be no necessity for keeping at Tampa Bay more men than will be necessary to defend that post. The residue should be stationed on the Suwanee river and at Fort Drane, and some commanding position between those places, until another campaign is commenced. The two cutters, the Dallas and the Dexter, which were placed subject to the orders of General Scott, and intended, as I have been informed, to cut off the communication between the Spanish traders from the island of Cuba and the Indians, have been ordered to their stations on the coast of Alabama and Louisiana, leaving the peninsula of Florida entirely exposed to the visitations of any vessels which may be inclined to carry articles to the Indians and take off negroes to the island of Cuba.

Allow me, sir, to suggest the necessity of keeping continually on the coast armed vessels of some description, to cut off all communication between the Indians and those who may be disposed to relieve their necessities by carrying on a traffic with them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass,
Secretary of War.

Tallahassee, *May* 6, 1836.

Sir: I enclose you, herewith, copies of several letters relative to the situation of this country, from which you will perceive the many embarrassments to which we are exposed. I wrote you by the last mail, informing you of the attack made by the Indians on the plantation of Judge Randall This morning the Indians were seen in the same neighborhood. They fired on two men, and wounded one of them very severely. The party I sent in pursuit were misdirected on their route, and did not fall in with them. I have ordered an additional force into the field, and hope soon to relieve the settlement from the intrusion.

I assure you, sir, the country is in the most distressed condition and, unless we are promptly aided by the Government, a large portion of it will be laid waste. I wrote to you some three weeks since for authority to draw arms and ammunition from the arsenals of Louisiana and Alabama. I have now determined to send a vessel to Tampa Bay to endeavor to procure a temporary supply. I have taken the liberty also of requesting the commanding officer at that place to send such portion of his command as can be spared from the defence of that post. I have ordered 160 horsemen into service, for the defence of Middle Florida; and if the Govern-

ment does not aid us in carrying on the war during the summer, the greater part of our population must be under arms, or the country will be abandoned. Under the present system, the troops of the United States will be snugly disposed of in the fortifications, while the people of the Territory will be struggling with the enemy in the field. This, I am sure, cannot be the intention of the Government, and I hope soon to be informed of the adoption of measures which will bring this savage war to a close. Unless something decisive is done before the commencement of our sickly season, a large portion of the country will be overrun by the enemy.

A part of the documents enclosed relate to a subject on which I feel the deepest concern. A blockhouse was built on the Withlacoochie river, and forty men of the Territory left there as a garrison. The measure was a most injudicious one; and if the men have not already perished, their situation is perilous in the extreme.

You will perceive, from the letter of General Clinch, and the proceedings of the council of war held at Fort Drane, that it was deemed inexpedient to send a force to their relief, although the distance was not more than thirty-five or forty miles. Having been disappointed in procuring the boat which I relied on to be sent on this service, in the event of my request not being complied with, as a last resort I have sent to the Appalachicola for a steamboat to go on this expedition. If I succeed in getting one, I will force the enterprise up the river, and relieve the garrison of the blockhouse, if it has not already been destroyed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Copies of the documents referred to in the letter of R. K. Call, of May 6, 1836, addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.

HEADQUARTERS, 12th REG. FLOR. MILITIA,
Charles Ferry, April 16, 1836.

SIR: I take a great deal of pleasure in announcing to your excellency the safe return of my men and boat from the shores of the Withlacoochie. I was ordered by General Scott, on the 25th of March, to transport, as speedily as possible, from 750 to 1,000 bushels of corn to his army.

Agreeably to his order, I prepared two boats, with sufficient bulwarks to withstand any thing like small arms, and, on the morning of the 30th, set sail for the mouth of the river. With the exception of a few embarrassments on the mud flats of the Vacassa, our voyage was altogether a pleasant and an expeditious one. On reaching the mouth of the river, my adjutant and myself took our seats on deck, where we could make observations. We saw some fresh Indian tracks on the sand-banks. On arriving at Captain Graham's old blockhouse, then about half-hour by sun, I ordered anchors to be cast, and, in the course of the night, had erected a substantial blockhouse—such a one as would have secured us against Oceola and his tribe. My instructions from the commanding general were to fire a volley of muskets on entering the mouth of the river, and every successive morning at nine o'clock, until I was responded to by the right wing of the

army; and, in case of no response by the 3d or 4th of April, I would return to my station.

Accordingly I waited until the 4th, and, having heard nothing from the army, set sail from my station, leaving Captain Halloman and company, at their earnest request, in charge of blockhouse and provisions, knowing, as well as I could know any thing in future, that the provisions would be wanted, and wanted there. From the innumerable fastnesses on that river, the Indians will resort to it from time to time during the war. An Indian dog was shot by one of the sentinels the day before I left. The establishment of a post there will be of great service in protecting the property of the frontier, and preventing the Indians from driving stock, and cutting off every thing like communication by boats between the Onthicoochy and Vacassa neighborhood.

The Indians, I am informed, are in the habit of going to the Vacassa neighborhood, and butchering beef, drying it, and carrying it up the Withlacoochie in their canoes. My health for the last month has been gradually declining. I am now but a walking skeleton, with a chronic cough, and chill and fever. My prayer to your excellency is, to permit me to resign my command. Mine is really a case of life and death. If I remain in service, I shall certainly lose my life. By retiring to some healthier climate, with good nursing, I may regain my health. If you think with me that the war will not terminate before next spring, and prefer giving me a furlough until the 1st of next October, it would suit me much better, for I wish to see the close of it. I have shown every disposition to stand by my bleeding country while I had strength to sustain me; but my powers are now gone. It is four months and a half since I have been in active service all the time, except a few weeks in Tallahassee. Permit me, in retiring from office, to recommend my adjutant, J. McCants, as my successor. He is a good tactician, and, I think, a brave man, and possesses every other qualification necessary to the making an accomplished officer.

I am, respectfully,

JNO. McLEMORE,
Major 12th Regt. Florida Militia.

His Excellency R. K. Call.

Tallahassee, *April* 26, 1836.

Sir: A few days since I received a communication from Major McLemore, stationed on the Suwanee frontier, informing me that, under orders from General Scott, he had ascended the Withlacoochie, and erected a blockhouse on the south bank, some ten or twelve miles above its mouth, and that he had left a garrison of forty men in the blockhouse and a large quantity of corn and pickled beef. This morning at daylight Major Read, of the Florida battalion, arrived at this place from the mouth of the Withlacoochie, bringing the intelligence that he discovered, at the mouth of the river, one-half of a large flat-boat, which had been cut in two apparently with a dull axe and by an unpractised hand. His description corresponds with that given of the boat left at the blockhouse by Major McLemore, and I have every reason to fear that the blockhouse has been taken and the garrison massacred by the Indians. Major Read reports that he saw a number of fires extending along the coast as far west as the Vacassa bay,

and he has no doubt of there being a large body of Indians in that quarter. I have thought it proper to communicate this intelligence to you, and to suggest the propriety of sending a force to the blockhouse to ascertain the fate of the garrison, and if they are still safe to bring them off, unless it should be deemed more expedient by the commanding officer to continue the force at that place. The detachment sent on this service should be strong enough to meet a considerable force, as I have no doubt of there being a large body of the enemy in that neighborhood. The blockhouse cannot be more than thirty-five or forty miles from Fort Drane. But should it be impracticable for you to send a sufficient force by land to ascertain their fate, I have ordered a fortified boat to be in readiness at Suwanee Old-town, to proceed, with a part of the men at that place, to the relief of the garrison, and to transport it back to the Old-town, unless the commanding general shall otherwise direct. You will, therefore, be pleased to send an express to Major McCants, commanding at the Old-town, and inform him whether troops have been sent by land to the relief of the blockhouse, or whether the boat which will be in readiness shall be sent on that service. Major Read was not apprized that there was a blockhouse and garrison on the Withlacoochie until his arrival at St. Mark's and the disbanding of his command.

The report of his examination at the mouth of the Withlacoochie will be made to you in a few days.

It is reported, on good authority, that the Creek Indians have manifested a restless disposition, and some apprehension is expressed of approaching hostilities with them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

General Scott,
Or the commanding officer at Fort Drane.

Headquarters, right wing, Florida army,
Fort Drane, April 29, 1836.

At a council convened this evening to consider a proposition submitted by the brigadier general commanding, were present—

Brigadier General Clinch,

Lieut. Col. Bankhead, 4th artillery,	Major Cooper, Georgia volunteers,
Captain Thruston,	Captain Lendrum, 3d artillery,
Captain Lee, 3d artillery,	Captain Wharton, 1st dragoons,
Captain Tompkins, 1st artillery,	Captain Seymour, Georgia vols.
Capt. Foster, Georgia volunteers,	Captain Brown, Georgia volunteers.

The question proposed was on information furnished by a letter from Governor Call, that a detachment of Florida militia had ascended the Withlacoochie river nine miles above its mouth on the 2d of April, under Major McLemore, and, after constructing a blockhouse, had left there forty men, with several hundred bushels of corn and a large supply of salted beef; that Major Read, on his arrival at Tallahassee on the 26th of April from Tampa Bay, had reported that, in passing the mouth of the Withlacoochie, he had discovered a boat cut in two, which he had reason to believe, from

the description of the boat left with the detachment, to be the same. Governor Call suggests, in his letter to the commanding general, the propriety of sending a force from this place to the blockhouse, to learn the fate of the garrison; stating, also, if that could not be done, that he had directed a force to go from Suwanee Old-town in a fortified boat (the force to be supplied by a part of Major McCants's command there) to the relief of the detachment.

The question submitted was on this information; and it was decided unanimously that a force adequate to the purpose could not be marched from this post. Not more than three hundred men could be raised at all capable of marching; that the physical ability of these is questionable, the whole being just returned from a most fatiguing and harassing campaign, in a state too enfeebled by exposure, hard marching, and sickness, to undertake a new expedition of one hundred miles; that, admitting them to be capable in other respects, they are not in sufficient number to enter the heart of the enemy's country. There being no other troops now operating in the Territory, they must expect to encounter the whole strength of the enemy, which experience has shown to be competent to resist successfully the attempt of a much larger force to cross the Withlacoochie. The blockhouse is on the opposite side. The effort to be made from the force here would leave this frontier entirely exposed.

C. M. THRUSTON,
Captain, acting Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS, RIGHT WING, FLORIDA ARMY.

SIR: I have only a moment to inform you that the force at this post is deemed insufficient, in its present state, to give the proper succor to the detachment left on the south bank of the Withlacoochie, which I deeply regret. Your letter on that subject has been forwarded to Major General Scott, now at Picolata, and a copy to Major McCants, commanding on the Suwanee. I have urged Major General Scott to call into the service of the United States, for the term of six months, if practicable, at least 200 mounted men of the country. The regular force in the country is not sufficient to give the necessary protection to the inhabitants; and, unless some effort is made, this section of Florida will be laid waste.

In much haste, I remain, with high respect, your most obedient,

D. L. CLINCH,
Brig. General U. S. Army.

His Excellency Governor R. K. CALL.

SYNER'S, *May* 2, 1836.

SIR: We did not proceed more than five miles on our scout this morning before we came upon fresh signs of Indians; after going a little farther, we found the camp which they had just left; there appeared to be about 30 or 40 Indians. Hoping, however, that I might be able to fight my eight men against the number, I pushed forward for seven or eight miles farther, when we came in view of the Indian cow-pen, containing 250 or 300 head of cattle. I prepared my men for attack, and advanced within about 250

yards, when the Indians showed front to the number of 30 or 40. Having every reason to suppose an ambuscade between us, I then called a council of war, which resulted in an abandonment of all hope of being able to effect any thing by an attack They had about 15 or 20 horsemen, who drove about the cattle, and hurried them off with great speed. Deeply mortifying as it was, I had to withdraw my little company, whom I could not fight against six or seven times their force, having, at the same time, the advantage of an ambuscade. If I had had a competent force, I could not only have deprived them of their cattle, but could no doubt have given you a good account of the enemy. I had not only an inferior force, but my men were badly armed, having no pistols or sabres. My dear sir, if you will only give me men, I can keep the Indians in check on this frontier; but, at present, what can I do? I cannot express the deep mortification I feel at not being able to fight those fellows to-day; but I could do nothing but sacrifice my men. I found, also, at Gombulin's, and other places down there, a large quantity of corn and potatoes, which I am wholly unable to remove. Syner's property is valuable to the country, and is now entirely exposed. The Indians will continue to gather cattle from this neighborhood, without my being able to prevent it. Send me but 50 men—I can mount 10 or 15 more; and this force, though small, will certainly do something. Bell's boat has not yet arrived; as soon as it does, I will embark in the expedition to relieve Captain Halloman.

This station is an important one, and I would pledge myself to keep the frontier defended, with proper and adequate means. Surely there is patriotism enough in Middle Florida to assist in flogging these scoundrels. I was accompanied by Captain Townsend and Sergeant major Sears, who composed two of the eight.

Yours, in haste,
J. McCANTS, *Major*,
Commanding at Suwanee Old-town.

Governor R. K. CALL.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 8, 1836.

SIR: I am yet without an answer to any of the several letters I have written relative to the situation of this country, and our condition becomes more and more embarrassing every day. Last night a sentinel was fired on at St. Mark's by a party of Indians, and this morning a number of tracks were seen at the place. I have sent a detachment of horse in pursuit, and hope they may be overtaken. Outrages are now almost daily committed along our whole line of frontier. I am not advised of any measures having been taken by the officers of the United States army for our defence; and our sparse population must be brought into the field, or the country abandoned. I am exceedingly anxious to learn what measures will be adopted by the Government, and hope soon to hear from you on that subject. The country is already greatly harassed; and, if we are not aided by the Government, the consequences may be fatal.

Very respectfully, yours,
R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 10, 1836.

SIR: I enclose you, herewith, copies of two letters received by express from East Florida, from which you will perceive that the people on that frontier are not only in the highest state of excitement and alarm, but in the most imminent peril. In a sparse population like ours, scattered over a vast extent of country, with a fierce and savage enemy on our borders, the means of self defence cannot be expected; and you must be aware, from the result, that the measures heretofore adopted are entirely insufficient.

I obtain no information from the officers of the Government charged with the defence of the frontier. The only letter I have received from any of them, since I came into office, was one written in reply to one from me, a copy of which I enclosed you a few days since. Our citizens are slaughtered in the immediate vicinity of the posts; and the only intelligence I receive of their sufferings is from the survivors, who escape to the interior. I should feel no disposition to inquire into the mode of defence, if it proved successful; but while the country is bleeding at every pore, and is threatened with desolation, I must be permitted to speak plainly, sir, and ask what measures are proposed for our defence. If I had the means, I should not ask assistance, but would carry the war at once into the enemy's country. Our people have been greatly harassed by the war, and the resources of many are entirely exhausted. Their personal services, their provisions, and their horses, were freely given for the public use; but they have as yet received no remuneration whatever. The predatory bands of the enemy are still prowling in our neighborhood. Several detachments of horse are still in pursuit; but, from the dense hammocks in which they secrete themselves, every pursuit has been unsuccessful. The night before last a house was burnt by the Indians within twenty miles of this place, and within two or three miles of where there were different detachments in pursuit of them. I shall still persevere, however, and hope yet to overtake and destroy them. This, however, if successful, will produce only temporary relief; for there is nothing to prevent them overrunning our country, if they press forward immediately. The enemy can bring 1,000 warriors on our frontier whenever they think proper; and the only successful mode of defence is to invade their country, and keep them engaged at home.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 12, 1836.

SIR: The copies of letters to which I referred in my last were accidentally omitted; they are herewith enclosed.

On yesterday a lad was shot and scalped by the Indians while ploughing in the field within twenty miles of this place. I have yet received no answers to the many letters I have addressed you relative to the situation of this country. I hope, sir, measures will be promptly taken to pay up the demands against the Government, and to provide for our defence.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Copies of the documents referred to in the letter of R. K. Call of May 12, 1836, addressed to the Hon. L. Cass.

FORT GILLILAND, *May* 6, 1836.

SIR: Information has just reached here that the Indians have attacked five white men and two negroes near Micanopy—four killed and three escaped, two of whom are wounded; the people all below this are abandoning the country, and the Indians have possession without opposition. I have summoned the whole regiment to meet here to morrow, and then I shall repair to the frontier, and there await your assistance. The people are so much confused, I fear there will be few that will meet; I therefore wish you to give me orders to have the whole regiment in actual service. I therefore request that you will order Colonel Summerland to have the 12th regiment organized and ordered into actual service. I wish you to order two hundred or two hundred and fifty men from Middle Florida; there is provision enough in the country for their support, and, unless such assistance is granted, the country must be abandoned entirely. The few regulars that are at Camp King and Fort Drane afford little or no protection to the country. The people have abandoned the country, so that there will be provision enough, unless destroyed by the enemy.

Yours, in haste,

COLTON RAWLS,
Lt. Col. 6th regiment F. M.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

NEWNANSVILLE, FORT GILLILAND, *May* 5, 1836.

DEAR SIR: Since writing to you the other day, several families have come into this place, and state that every family is leaving Hogtown settlement. I will try to get as many to stop at this place as possible, until I can hear from you; the people are more alarmed than I ever saw them before. If I can rally one hundred men at this place, I will leave a guard with the women and children, and proceed to the frontier with the balance, and endeavor to maintain my ground until aid can reach us. The people will make a stand at this place, provided speedy relief can be had; if not, they must break from the country.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

COLTON RAWLS,
Lt. Col. 6th regiment F. M.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 12, 1836.

SIR: I have reason to believe that fraudulent claims against the Quartermaster's Department have been carried to Washington. Some were presented for approval to the acting Governor before I entered on the duties of my office, which were unsustained by the original bills of purchase. When the person presenting them found they would be scrutinized here, he re-

tired with them, and I presume he has gone to Washington to have them supported by Governor Eaton, given after he was out of office. If such have been presented, you may rest assured they are fraudulent, and that the fraud can be detected if proper inquiry is made.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 12, 1836.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have written to the Secretary of War almost every mail since I entered on the duties of my office, relative to the exposed and distressed condition of our frontier. To that correspondence I beg leave to call your attention, as I have yet received no answer whatever from the War Department. The last campaign was a total failure, and resulted only in exhausting our resources, and giving additional confidence to the enemy. So far from conquering any part of their country, our settlements have receded before the invasion of the savages, who are now undisputed masters of all the country east of the Suwanee, beyond the reach of gunshot from the forts. The inhabitants of that country are confined to the little stockades which they have erected in the different neighborhoods, and are frequently destroyed when they venture out in pursuit of subsistence for their families. Having desolated that part of the country, the enemy is turning his attention to this. Marauding bands are now on our borders, divided into small parties, which continue to harass and destroy the frontier settlements. In addition to the outrages which I have already reported to the Secretary of War, yesterday they killed and scalped a lad while ploughing in the field, within twenty miles of this place. A detachment of horse arrived on the spot very soon after, but I have not yet heard with what success the pursuit has been attended; but, hitherto, they have evaded every pursuit, owing to the dense hammocks in which they conceal themselves. You are aware, sir, that the country on our seaboard is low and swampy, intersected with lagoons and marshes, and that there are no inhabitants nearer than twenty five or thirty miles from the coast; thus presenting an open avenue for the approach of the enemy as far west as St. Mark's, and within a few miles of this place. The sparse population of this country, exhausted and harassed as it already is by the war, I assure you, sir, is entirely incapable of self-defence, unless they abandon all they have, and concentrate at such points as may be defended. The nearest post to this place is Fort Drane, a distance of 150 [miles], and the garrison is unable to drive the enemy from the immediate [vicinity]. I can hear of no measure proposed for our defence; and I assure you, sir, if something is not promptly done, that this country will be desolated during the summer.

I am organizing a force, such as we are able to raise; but it will be quite insufficient to keep the enemy in check any length of time. If I can, by any means, assemble 2,500 men, I will put an end to the war in a short time. The proper way of defending our country is to carry the war into that of the enemy.

I am, dear General, very sincerely, yours,

R. K. CALL.

General JACKSON.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 14, 1836.

SIR: I enclose you, herewith, a copy of a letter just received, giving further intelligence of the suffering and distress of our frontier inhabitants.

I have written to you so frequently on this subject, without receiving any answer whatever, that I despair of producing any beneficial result by my correspondence; I am, nevertheless, resolved to do my duty, and leave the responsibility to rest on those who fail, after due notice of the necessity of prompt action, to provide for the protection of the frontier.

You will perceive, from the document enclosed, that there are four hundred women and children at one post, who have been driven from their homes, leaving behind them all they had for support. If the Government is unable to reinstate and defend them at their homes, humanity would seem to require that they should, at least, be carried to some place of safety, and provided with food, under the resolution of Congress passed during the present session.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Copy of the document referred to in the letter of R. K. Call, of May 14, 1836, *addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.*

NEWNANSVILLE, *May* 10, 1836.

SIR: Since forwarding the express, by Mr. Ellis, I avail myself of the opportunity by Major Holmes, of Gentburg, of informing you of the awful situation in which we are placed. I have had, this day, an account of the women and children (only) taken, and the report is *four hundred*, most of whom have fled to this post within the last two days for safety; and God only knows how many more of those unfortunate people may come in, as all below this have within the last twenty-four hours broken up, and left their homes and their all at the mercy of their savage enemy. Those who have concentrated here are determined to make a stand, and, I think, will, to the last, defend their post, as there are many women and children who are destitute of the means of getting away from here, and necessarily compelled to stay. Notwithstanding the scarcity of provisions in this part of the country, and the destitute means which the United States army has left us as regards hauling, I have this day ordered out what few teams are in the range of my power, to bring in what provisions are left us in this part of the country. I have, also, for the protection and safety of the inhabitants thus fled to me for protection, ordered an extension of the pickets, and the erection of two blockhouses, as also a storehouse, within the pickets; all of which I deem necessary for their safety. Rations have been ordered to be furnished them, which will continue till further advised by your excellency.

The greater part of the people here are stockowners, who are anxious to make this post a last stand, knowing, should it break, there would be no other this side of the St. Mary's river.

I shall have here from eighty to one hundred men, who, thus far, have shown a willingness to fight. I am confident of their valor, and, could it be

possible we can be furnished with ammunition, I have not the least doubt of being able to defend this part of Alachua. I will, as soon as practicable, send out a mounted force of forty or fifty men to scour the frontier, and, on their return, drive all cattle which they may fall in with to this place; which cattle I shall have driven to the north of Santa Fe, which may be of usehere after to any troops who may be sent to our relief, and at the same time prevent the Indians getting them. As I have before stated, there is still a quantity of corn south of this; if not protected, it must be destroyed by the Indians.

Hoping the return express may bear some news of assistance, I remain, in haste, your most obedient servant,

COLTON RAWLS,
Lieutenant Colonel, com. 6th reg. F. M.

P. S.—Colonel Sanchez is at present absent.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Tallahassee, *May* 16, 1836.

Sir: I enclose you, herewith, a copy of a letter from Lieutenant Walker, commanding the blockhouse on the Withlacoochie, an account of which I gave you in a former letter. Three men made their escape from the blockhouse in a canoe, and arrived at St. Mark's last night. They confirm the statement made in the letter of Lieutenant Walker, and represent the garrison at the blockhouse as being in a most deplorable situation. The steamboat, which I mentioned in a former letter having been sent for, arrived at St. Mark's yesterday. It has been ordered here, to be fortified by constructing bulwarks; and, so soon as she is ready, will endeavor to force a passage up the river and relieve the garrison. It is the opinion of the men who have escaped that we should have to fight our way from the mouth of the river to the blockhouse. The boat will be well prepared, and I hope will be able to destroy many of the enemy on the expedition. The blockhouse is within a very few miles of the principal settlements of the Indians; it is a very important position, and, had I the means of holding it, I would not abandon it. If the steamboat succeeds in ascending the river, (as I have no doubt she will,) we shall then see the certainty and ease with which supplies might have been introduced into the enemy's country, if the proper steps had been taken: the main body of the enemy has always been on the Withlacoochie, and might have been found there. I am sorry to say, sir, that another mail has arrived, and I have yet had no answer to one of the many letters I have written you relative to the situation of this country. Perhaps, sir, when too late, you may find that the information I have at different times communicated was worthy of your attention. War with the Creeks is now reduced to a certainty. Florida will then be between two fires; and what may be the situation of this country two months hence, no human foresight can predict.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass,
Secretary of War.

Copy of the document referred to in the letter of R. K. Call, dated May 16, 1836, addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.

CAMP MCLEMORE, *May* 10, 1836.

DEAR SIR: We have remained here the whole time since you left us, and were attacked on the 12th of April, at dawn of day, by a large body of Indians; since which time, we have been surrounded with them almost continually, and have had upwards of twenty fights with them, and have had only two of our men killed (Eli Sealy on the 13th of April, and our captain, E. Halloman, on the 3d of May) and five others slightly wounded. The loss of the Indians is, I think, fifteen or twenty killed. On the 15th of April we had an engagement with 400 or 500 Indians, which lasted two hours and forty-five minutes; during which time they got possession of our flat, which drifted down the river, and was destroyed by them. So we have had no means of getting away from here without relief from some source, as we have not a man who knows the geography of the country.

We are entirely out of every necessary of life, except corn and water, and know not where to look for relief, as the time which you appointed has elapsed by ten or twelve days. And we have not heard or seen any thing of the army, or any other person, except (Powell's) yelling devils; and their yells would have been silenced long ago, if we had had men enough: for you may rest assured, dear sir, that there are some fighting fowls here. Poor fellows! it is a pity that they should ever starve, for they have fought well.

The sending of this express is full of danger, and has been delayed on that account, hoping that the boat might come to our relief, till we have given it over. I am under the belief that General Scott wrote to you that he would come and get the corn which was brought here for the army, and relieve us himself, and that is, perhaps, the cause of the long delay of the boat; but, sir, we are here, suffering; and hope you will come or send persons to our assistance as soon as possible.

Yours, very respectfully,

L. B. WALKER,
Lieutenant in command of company A.

Major MCLEMORE.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 24, 1836.

SIR: I have this moment received your letter of the 14th instant, and must apologize for the warmth with which I have expressed myself in my correspondence with you, in relation to our frontier settlements. My apology will be found in the embarrassed and distressed situation in which I found the Territory, and my great anxiety to relieve her sufferings.

Agreeably to the request contained in your letter of the 5th instant, I have communicated to General Scott my views in relation to the defence of our frontier. My letter was borne to him by an intelligent gentleman, who will demonstrate my plan on the map of Florida. I enclose you, herewith, a copy of it, to which I beg leave to call your attention. In the present position of the troops, they give no protection whatever to the settlements; nor would an army of ten thousand men produce the desired effect, located and employed in the same manner.

At Fort Drane and Micanopy there are several hundred troops. They are situated within the boundary of Arredonda, as described on the map of

Florida, and the enemy is in undisputed possession of all around them, and as far south as Dill's post office, which, you will perceive from the map, is near fifty miles. Whether they are ever employed on scouts to drive back the marauding bands of the enemy, I cannot say; but certain it is, our citizens are slaughtered in their immediate vicinity, and the whole country is desolated as far north as the points I have mentioned. Only a few days since, a white man and my faithful guide, old Nero, were shot down by the Indians, while hunting cattle near one of these posts. Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Colonel Mills, giving an account of their fate.

At Tampa Bay there cannot be less than three or four hundred men, where there is nothing to protect but the post. And a short time since, a citizen, who had taken refuge there, was shot by the Indians while hunting cattle but a short distance from the post.

I enclose you, also, a letter from Major McCants, of the Florida militia, commanding at Suwanee Old-town, from which you will perceive that his post is surrounded by the enemy. Immediately on receiving the intelligence, I ordered a detachment of horse to his relief, and I hope they may arrive in time to cut off the retreat of the Indians.

I am well satisfied, sir, from the situation of our country, and the nature of the enemy, that the plan I have proposed to General Scott is the only one by which our frontier can be successfully defended.

By concentrating the forces at the mouth of the Withlacoochie, (or Amazura, as it is called,) and, immediately after landing, if we make a rapid march into the country, we may surprise the enemy and capture their wives and children, which will be the most effectual means of putting an end to the war. At any rate, we shall be able to rout them from all their neighboring settlements; destroy their corn; capture their cattle; and give them such employment at home as will leave them no time to invade our frontier. If General Scott should be ordered to take command of the army, which must necessarily be employed against the Creeks, I should be gratified by being directed to lead the expedition against the Seminoles. Supplies of every kind, for such an expedition, are in abundance at Fort Brooke, and may easily be transported to the mouth of the Withlacoochie.

Apprehending that the Creek Indians may attempt to retreat to the peninsula for the purpose of uniting with the Florida tribe, I have sent Gen. Searcy to confer with the Governor of Georgia, and A. M. McWalker, the secretary of the Territory, to confer with the Governor of Alabama, on the subject; and have requested that a formidable force may be placed by each of those States on the southern and eastern frontier of the Creek nation, for the purpose of preventing their escape. Should this measure be promptly adopted, we have nothing to fear; but should it be long delayed, a large portion of the Territory may be desolated; for I have no doubt it is the intention of the Creeks to locate themselves on the peninsula of Florida.

If Georgia and Alabama will take care of the Creeks, and my plan for the defence of Florida is adopted, I have no doubt of the result.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

P. S.—I beg leave to refer you to Bernard's map, as furnishing the best description of the Withlacoochie or Amazura river.

Copies of the documents referred to in Governor Call's letter of 24th May, 1836, addressed to the honorable Lewis Cass.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 22, 1836.

SIR: I have received a letter from the Secretary of War, in which I am requested to communicate my views to you, on the subject of defence for the frontier of Florida. The present line to be defended is extensive, the population sparse, and the country so completely intersected with swamps and hammocks, that I should despair of giving perfect protection by any number of fortifications within the present means of Government to erect during the summer. The line of defence may, however, be greatly reduced in length by advancing our posts nearer the enemy, and our security promoted by carrying the war into their country. I would therefore respectfully suggest that the present forts should be garrisoned only by a sufficient number of men to hold them as rallying points and as places of deposite; that all the available regular force, with such assistance as we may be able to procure from the seamen and marines of the United States, and the militia of the Territory, be assembled to make an expedition to the Withlacoochie. It is now fully ascertained that, through the channel of this river, supplies in any quantity may be introduced and transported within a short distance of the Indian settlements. There is safe anchorage off the mouth of the river, from whence the supplies may be conveyed up in fortified lighters to the place where the depot should be established. The troops from Key West, Tampa Bay, and New Orleans, with the seamen and marines, and the militia from this part of the country, can be transported to the mouth of the river. The disposable force from Fort Drane can march across the country to Suwanee Old-town, from whence they can be conveyed in a steamboat to unite with the other forces. So soon as a junction of the different troops shall have taken place, I would propose that a rapid and spirited march be made on the Indians where they are settled on the river and its vicinity; and, after ronting them and destroying the corn which they are cultivating, the troops might fall back to a healthy position on the river, within the influence of the sea breeze, where a strong fortified camp might be constructed, from whence the enemy may be harassed by frequent excursions into their settlements. By the aid of small fortified boats, supplies might be introduced through the channel of all the streams emptying into the Gulf between the Hillsborough and Withlacoochie rivers. From this fortified camp, I would keep up a continual communication with Fort Drane by a detachment of horse. The distance would not exceed 35 or 40 miles, through an open country; and a strong patrol thus employed would effectually protect the whole frontier of Middle and East Florida as far as Fort Drane, from whence another patrol of horse might be extended to the St. John's. Thus we should not only cover all the frontier settlements by a short line of defence, but, by giving the enemy employment in his own country, we should throw him on the defensive, and leave him neither time nor opportunity to invade ours. One thousand men, thus posted and thus employed, would give more protection to our settlements than ten times the number stationed along the line from the Atlantic to St. Mark's, on the Gulf of Mexico; all of which, you perceive, presents a frontier perfectly accessible to the invasion of the enemy. The Indians are now crossing the Suwanee in great numbers, and, unless timely assistance is afforded, this flourishing and prosperous district of country will be laid

waste during the summer. We must struggle with the enemy somewhere; and it were better that this struggle should be maintained in theirs than in our own country, when the slaughter of women and children must be the inevitable result of the conflict. After hearing that it was your intention to send a part of the force from Tampa Bay to take post on the Suwanee, and the enemy having appeared and committed outrages within 25 miles of this place, I chartered a vessel, and sent her with a request to the commanding officer at Tampa Bay that a portion of his force might be immediately sent to St. Mark's. The vessel returned loaded with arms and provisions. The schooner Motto, the public transport, came with a cargo of the same kind, but no men were sent. I immediately chartered another vessel, and sent her back with a renewal of my request to the commanding officer, which I hope will prove more successful. A part of the 4th regiment, under command of Major Foster, I learn has been sent to New Orleans. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of ordering this force to return to St. Mark's, with such additional regular troops as may be drawn from the garrison at Louisiana. Our situation, sir, I assure you, is one of great peril. On the north, we have the formidable power of the Creeks; on the south, the fierce and warlike Seminoles. The former will soon be driven before the forces of Georgia and Alabama, and will no doubt attempt to form a junction with the Seminoles. Should this be done, Middle Florida will present one dreadful scene of carnage and desolation. The settlements between the Creeks and the Florida line are already giving way, and the inhabitants retiring into stockades. The powerful States of Georgia and Alabama should be required, without delay, to throw a strong force on their southern frontiers of the Creek country. If this be not promptly done, sir, the consequences may be fatal to all Middle and West Florida. I shall address the Governors of these States on the subject by the mail of to-night, and hope they will adopt my suggestions.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major General Scott.

Old-town, *May* 19, 1836.

Sir: Your express arrived in time to save this station. The men here mutinied twice to leave me; they have quieted down for a short time, but I do not know at what time they will desert me in a body. Relief must come in a few days to save this station. I need a reinforcement at this place; the Indians are around us in bullying style, and our force barely sufficient to keep the posts. A few days since, they killed a man of this station, who had most imprudently, and contrary to all instructions, come from the other post to this, without arms or guards. The information in respect to the frontier of Jefferson and Madison is what makes the men here so disinclined from the performance of their duty; and I think it impossible to retain them longer than next week. A temporary relief of 20 or 30 men may save this station, if sent in time. I am also informed, by the lieutenant in charge of Charles Ferry, that the men there are determined to leave that post on Tuesday next, regardless of consequences, on the ground that their time is expired then. The term of service of the men here will end about the same time, and I have reason to believe

that they will desert both stations at once. The men here are in ill health; and, in this way, I am often unable to keep up a sufficient number of sentinels for the safety of the place. Lynier's plantation, where I had commenced a station, has been burnt down, destroying a large quantity of provisions of every kind. I await the arrival of next Tuesday with many apprehensions; I must, therefore, appeal to you in the most earnest manner for the safety of this place. A large number of Indians are now around us, using every effort to cut off my men; some were in Miller's field this morning, and I expect, with my present number, to have many of my men cut off passing and repassing between the forts. I am sensible of the importance of this station, and, therefore, tremble for its fate. I would concentrate the men here at Dabney, but most of our provisions are at Miller's, and we have no means of removing them. Another reason is, that if Miller sets off, the men will not remain; of this, I had a trial yesterday, in attempting to remove those forces here. The bearer of this express, Sergeant Taylor, will explain fully our condition.

Yours, &c.,

J. McCANTS,
Major, commanding at Suwanee.

His Excellency R. K. Call.

Jacksonville, *May* 14, 1836.

Sir: Your orders to Col. Warren, of the 27th ultimo, were received by me, and opened in his absence; Col. Warren having gone to St. Augustine, as I am informed, by request of Gen. Scott.

I immediately forwarded the orders to him, and proceeded to take measures for assembling the quota required from our regiment. I am confident that the Colonel will make every exertion to justify the confidence reposed in him by you, and will immediately proceed out.

By a letter received from Col. Rawls, I am informed that Capt. Wm. Gibbons, and Nero, our old guide, were shot near Cuernsfort last Thursday. I have written, in answer to his application for aid, that we will do all we can, and hope to be at Newnansville on Thursday next.

I have called on the quartermaster of the United States stationed here, and he refuses to issue on my requisition, based upon your order. I am anxiously waiting Col. Warren's arrival, to hear how he will act in this matter. We can procure any quantity here, of the merchants, if the United States will only pay or acknowledge our accounts; but we have been disbanded since the 1st of March, and not one cent paid to anybody yet.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

WM. F. MILLS,
Lieut. Col. 4th Regiment Florida Militia.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Tallahassee, *May* 28, 1836.

Sir: I enclose you, herewith, a copy of a letter just received from General Eustis, from which it appears that Fort King, the last post which we

held in the Indian country, has been abandoned, and that a part of its garrison has been ordered to Newnansville, and the other to Santa Fe bridge, not far distant from the former place. Thus our troops are following up the retreat of the people of the frontier, leaving the Indians in quiet possession of all the country they have conquered. A part of the 4th infantry, under command of Major Foster, has left Florida for New Orleans or Baton Rouge; I would respectfully suggest that these should be ordered to return to Florida, with all others that may be spared from the garrisons of Louisiana.

If there are troops that can be withdrawn from the northern stations, they should also be ordered to Florida.

I have received your letter of the 18th instant, and, with regard to that part of it which authorizes me to raise a thousand volunteers, in case the measure should pass Congress, I have only to observe that such a force cannot be raised in Florida for any purpose; and, if we do not receive assistance from abroad, the country cannot be defended.

What you have remarked on the subject of pursuing the marauding parties of the enemy, is certainly correct; but where, I would ask, are the horsemen you propose to be ready at every point along the line of frontier, for three hundred miles, to mount and pursue the Indians whenever they appear? If I had the horsemen, this is what I should do; but I know not where to get them. The regular troops, you observe, "ought not to be required to do more than hold their positions, overawe the enemy," &c. As to overawing the enemy, they yet have that to learn, as the Indians hold the country all around them; and they might as well hold their positions in any other part of the world as this, for the protection they give to our settlements.

I am disposed to make every effort in my power to save the country; but if I have neither the means nor the power of doing so, the responsibility of failure will not rest upon me.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass,
Secretary of War.

Headquarters, Army of Florida,
St. Augustine, May 21, 1836.

Sir: Major General Scott has evidently left here, under instructions from the War Department to proceed to the Creek Nation, and has directed me to assume the command of all the troops in the Territory of Florida.

He has instructed me to communicate freely with the Governor of Florida; and it is therefore that I address you to inform you that, in pursuance of his further instructions, I have directed the garrison and stores to be withdrawn from Fort King, and one of the companies now at that station to be posted at Newnansville, where a large number of inhabitants require protection; the other company will be posted at Santa Fe bridge, to cover the communication with Garey's Ferry from Fort Drane.

It is greatly to be desired that three or four companies of the Territorial militia should be mustered into the service of the United States; and, if I am not misinformed, General Scott communicated to you his views of that

subject. Permit me here to suggest that the personal influence of your excellency might be well employed in inducing the President to send three or four companies of artillery from the eastern seaboard.

I am, with great respect, your humble servant,

ABRAHAM EUSTIS,
Brigadier General United States army.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 30, 1836.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have just had the satisfaction to receive your letter of the 18th instant. I accept, with great pleasure, of the trust you have conferred on me; and I promise you that I will soon put an end to the war in Florida, or perish in the attempt.

I am disappointed, however, in not receiving an order from the Secretary of War, placing me in command of the forces in Florida. I have a letter, dated on the 19th, from him, in which he speaks of the expected passage of the law for raising volunteers, and observes: "I trust you are making all the arrangements necessary for the employment of the requisite force as soon as the measure is sanctioned by Congress." This is all he says on that subject, but I hope, by the mail which will arrive the day after to-morrow, I shall receive the necessary orders to enable me to assume command, and commence my preparations for a campaign. The character, as well as the position, of the enemy, has been entirely misconceived by our generals; and the state of their movements forbids the possibility of their accomplishing any thing of importance. Your opinion with regard to the mode of operating in this country is entirely correct. No army can make a successful campaign attended by a large train of baggage-wagons. By rapid and forced marches, the enemy may be surprised, and the women and children captured. I feel very confident that I shall be enabled to accomplish this, to some extent, at least, in a very short time after I enter the country. In nothing did our generals commit a greater blunder during the last campaign than in the points at which they established their depots, and the routes on which the supplies were conducted. The Withlacoochie is the stronghold of the enemy: their wives and children, their cattle and their homes, are there. Through the channel of this river, supplies of every description can be introduced within twenty miles of the principal settlements. I shall make a feint with my horsemen alone, in order to attract the attention of the Indians in this quarter, while I ascend the river at night in fortified boats, which can be protected with our supplies by a very few men while I land with the main body and march immediately upon them; and I have no doubt I can be in their camps and fields before they are aware of my approach. Powell's camp, I learn, is one of the first I shall discover on this route. He is the war spirit of the tribe, and, if I can give him a good whipping, it will bring the nation to its senses. So soon as I am placed in command, you may rely, sir, on my adopting the most prompt and energetic measures for carrying the war into the enemy's country. If the order should not have been given by the Secretary of War before you receive this, I hope it will be forwarded immediately after. It is necessary, also, that I should be furnished with funds to provide the necessary trans-

portation. Provision and forage in great abundance is to be had at Tampa Bay; but we shall want vessels to carry it to the mouth of the Withlacoochie, and fortified boats to carry it up that river and the other streams between that and the Hillsborough: on all of which there are Indian villages. The strength of the nation will be found between the Withlacoochie and the Hillsborough. I will, in a few days, send you a complete map of the seat of war, much of it drawn from actual survey.

I am, dear General, very sincerely, yours,

R. K. CALL.

The PRESIDENT *of the United States.*

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 1, 1836.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, in which you inform me that I am now charged with the direction of the war in Florida. I have a letter from the Secretary of War, of the same date, in which he expressly recognises General Scott as being in command of the army, and charged with the offensive and defensive measures of the war. I beg leave to refer you to the copy of his letter of the 21st of May, which is no doubt preserved in the War Office.

Nothing have I so much desired as to have the direction of the Florida war. But it was the pleasure of Governor Eaton and General Scott that I should have no command in it whatever. The sooner I am placed in command, the sooner I shall be prepared for the field; and I feel every confidence in routing Powell and his whole tribe in a very few weeks after I commence operations. I have again to request, sir, that you will give the necessary instructions to the Secretary of War to place me in command of the troops now in Florida; and I have to request that those which have gone to Louisiana may be ordered immediately to return, with such others as may be spared from the garrisons of that State. I am not advised of the number of troops stationed in Florida; but their positions have been most injudiciously selected, and they have given no protection whatever to the frontier. I have, on my own responsibility, raised troops in the Territory, which are now employed in driving the Indians from the settlements; and I will in a short time drive them even from the neighborhood of the forts garrisoned by the regulars, where they have been permitted to remain with impunity. I agree with you, sir, in the opinion that no war was ever so disgracefully conducted; and I promise you, when I am put in possession of the means, I will put an end to it speedily, or perish in the attempt. In conducting the campaign, I shall be governed by the rules pursued by you with so much success, and with which I am perfectly familiar. You may remember the anxiety I expressed to you on this subject in my letters written at an early period of the war, in which I expressed a desire to be in the field. From what I saw of the regulars, while on the frontier, I was satisfied that they have much to learn before they would be efficient in an Indian war.

I am highly gratified to find you have sent General Jesup to command against the Creeks; he is a soldier of the first merit, and is worth a battalion of your other generals.

You have heard much, but you have not yet become possessed of all the bad management in Florida. Large supplies of forage and provisions are yet arriving at Tampa Bay, under the requisition of General Scott; a great deal of which will be entirely lost before it can be consumed. Much of the corn is already spoiled, and the hay, I am told, is lying in heaps exposed to the weather. As far as these supplies will be required, they may easily be conveyed to the mouth of the Withlacoochie; but I presume there is a much larger quantity than will be required.

I am, dear General, very sincerely, yours,

R. K. CALL.

General JACKSON.

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 19, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 21st, 23d, 25th, and 26th ultimo. They should have been promptly answered, but they found me laboring under a severe indisposition, from which I am just recovering. As far as practicable, the several subjects to which they relate have been attended to. I have appointed the 4th of July next as the day on which an effort will be made, throughout the Territory, to raise volunteers under the act of Congress. I have little hope of being enabled to raise any considerable number of men for the period of twelve months, although a respectable force may be assembled for six or four months' service. I shall, however, make the attempt to raise them for twelve months; and if this cannot be done, I shall compel them to serve, for a stated period, under the laws of the Territory.

I am still very feeble, and unable to write more fully at present.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 21, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 8th instant. I have also just received a letter from General Clinch, in which he positively declines entering on duty in the service of the United States. I have, therefore, in obedience to your orders, assumed command of all the troops in Florida. I have required returns to be made of the strength of the different posts, and of the supplies of ordnance, ordnance stores, provisions, and transportation, on hand. As soon as my health will permit me to travel, I shall proceed to the east, in order to make the necessary arrangements for offensive and defensive operations against the enemy. I doubt not I shall, in a very short time, be able to free our settlements from the harassing visits of the Indians, and shall, as soon after as practicable, endeavor to carry the war into their country.

The measures adopted by General Jesup, and the Governors of Georgia and Alabama, leave us without apprehension of danger from the Creeks; and I hope to be able to direct my whole force against the Seminoles.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 27, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of a letter which I have just received from Major Heileman, in which he details the result of a skirmish he has had with a party of the enemy at Micanopy.

I hope my health will enable me to repair to the east in a few days, when I shall endeavor to assemble a sufficient force to drive the enemy out of the country.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

Copy of the document referred to in the letter of R. K. Call of June 27, 1836, *addressed to the honorable Lewis Cass.*

FORT DRANE, *June* 14, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letter of the 9th instant: the subject of it will be attended to as soon as I can make the necessary arrangements, although the present reduced state of the companies under my command puts it almost out of my power to make detachments from the established posts. I heard yesterday that General Eustis had ordered two companies of mounted men to this post; they will probably arrive in the next twenty-four hours, when I shall be able to send to Suwanee Old-town, and make some other detachments in this vicinity. I arrived here on the 11th instant; my men much worn down by the excessive heat of the weather, and the want of rain. A party of the enemy offered me battle in front of Micanopy, which was not declined; and I am happy to add, that a handful of men, under the immediate command of Captain Lee, of the 3d artillery, Lieutenant Wheelock, of the dragoons, Lieutenant Talcott, of the 3d, and Lieutenant Humphreys, of the 2d artillery, drove them in all directions. Captain Lee, I regret to say, was severely wounded, by which I lose the services of a most valuable officer. A few of the dragoons and artillery were wounded; but one of whom, I am happy to say, has yet died. The enemy destroyed General Clinch's sugar establishment, near this place, a few days before my arrival; and I learn small parties of them are destroying all the houses about the country.

I think it highly important that an active force should now be in operation, particularly as we must expect more sickness as the season advances. If my health permits, I shall go with the detachment to Suwanee, and will communicate further with you from that point.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. F. HEILEMAN,
Major commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 1, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo, and am highly gratified to learn that the volunteers from West

Tennessee are ordered directly to this place. I shall be prepared, so soon as they arrive, to march into the enemy's country. At this season of the year their women and children are to be found at their cornfields, and, by a prompt and rapid march, I have no doubt many of them may be surprised and captured, which will cause the warriors to give us battle.

I do not understand whether the Tennesseans will bring arms with them, or not; and, to avoid disappointment and prevent delays, I shall have a supply brought here from Baton Rouge, to be used if necessary. There is a large number in store at St. Augustine, but it would be much more difficult to get them from that place than from Baton Rouge.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass, *Secretary of War.*

Tallahassee, *July* 3, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th ultimo, and its enclosures. In a former letter, I advised you of having assumed command of the forces of Florida. I have yet made no alteration in the position of the regular troops; but I have disposed of the mounted volunteers in such manner as I thought best for the protection of the frontier, and at present every thing is quiet.

I regret to inform you that I have just received intelligence, by express, of the death of Major Heileman, late the commanding officer at Fort Drane. He died of fever on the 27th ultimo. The aggregate strength of the garrison is 289, and, at the last date, there were 99 on the sick report. Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the surgeon of the post, recommending its abandonment. I shall order an examination to be made, and hope to find a more healthy situation in the neighborhood, to which the troops and public stores may be removed. Your letter of the 20th ultimo was received just in time to countermand the order I had given for arms to equip the Tennessee volunteers, which I discover would be unnecessary, as they have been armed at the State arsenal. I have sent Captain Shannon to New Orleans to procure every thing necessary for the approaching campaign; and I have sent an express to General Scott, requesting the Tennessee troops may be ordered here without delay. I hope I shall be in the field early in August. I shall establish a depot on the Suwanee and one on the Withlacoochie. I shall attend especially to your suggestions with regard to the health of the troops; and, after routing the enemy on the Withlacoochie, destroying their crops, and capturing their cattle and families, if possible, should I find the troops unhealthy, or too much harassed with fatigue and the heat of the weather, I will retire to a healthy situation on the sea-board convenient to our supplies.

Major Kirby, the paymaster, has been here for some time, and will soon have completed the payment of the troops who served in the last campaign.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass, *Secretary of War.*

Copy of the document referred to in R. K. Call's letter of July 3, 1836, addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.

FORT DRANE, *June* 27, 1836.

SIR: By the regulations for the government of the medical department, it is made incumbent on the surgeon of the post to make known to the commanding officer whatever, in his opinion, may conduce to the health and comfort of the sick.

In obedience thereto, I have the honor to report, for your consideration, that since the commencement of the summer the number on the sick report has varied from one hundred to one hundred and twenty, and, since the beginning of the rainy season, is increasing; and should not this post be abandoned for one more healthy, I conceive that more than two-thirds of the command will be rendered unfit for duty. This place is known to every inhabitant within twenty miles to be one of the most sickly spots in this section of the country, and, as far as my experience goes, I fully concur in the belief.

There are at present eight officers stationed at the post, and only three fit for duty—one having died a few hours ago (Major Heileman, the commanding officer.)

Should the removal of the troops to some more healthful situation be delayed any longer, it is impossible to say what will be the result. I therefore respectfully recommend an immediate abandonment of the post.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ED. WEIGHTMAN,
Assistant Surgeon.

Captain J. DIMMICK,
Commanding.

P. S.—Dr. Leavenworth concurs in the above statement.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 5, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, enclosing copies and extracts of letters from General Scott, containing suggestions relative to the preparations that will be necessary for conducting the campaign against the Seminole Indians during the next autumn.

I am disposed to pay every respect to the opinions of this experienced general; but if the Tennessee volunteers should arrive within the time contemplated, I shall, under the permission of the department, march immediately into the enemy's country. My plan of operations is to transport the infantry, in steamboats, to the mouth of the Withlacoochie, where they will embark with their baggage and stores in fortified boats, and ascend to the rapids, where they will land and unite with the horsemen, within ten or fifteen miles of the Indian settlements.

This approach will be entirely unexpected. The boats may ascend at night, to avoid discovery; and by a rapid march we may surprise and capture a part of the enemy. From all I can learn on this subject, I feel great confidence that the barges may be forced over the rapids; after which, they may ascend nearly to the point where General Scott proposes to establish

his second depot on the river. For the purpose of managing these barges, which will be well fortified, I have to request that 250 or 300 seamen and marines, with competent officers, may be furnished from the squadron on this station.

This force, while conducting our supplies up the river, will not only afford us, at all times, the means of crossing from one side to the other, but will be sufficient to defeat any small parties of Indians that may be found on the islands, or on the banks of the river.

By executing this plan of operations, I believe in fifteen days the stronghold on the Withlacoochie may be broken up, and the enemy entirely routed. This will relieve our frontier from their troublesome visits. After which, should we find the warmth of the season too oppressive, we may retire to a healthy position on the sea-board, within the enemy's country, and rest as long as may be necessary.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. L. Cass,
Secretary of War.

Tallahassee, *July* 5, 1836.

Sir: In assuming command of the troops stationed in Florida, I required, in general orders, returns of the strength of the different garrisons to be immediately made.

Those returns have been yet but partially received, but they show a great want of officers at almost every post. Fort Drane is garrisoned by six companies, and a detachment amounting in the aggregate to 289, and there are but one captain and four lieutenants present; while there are four captains and sixteen lieutenants absent. Of the seven officers present, four are on the sick report.

I have respectfully to request, sir, that the officers belonging to the Florida army, so far as their services may be dispensed with elsewhere, may be ordered immediately to join their respective commands.

So far as I am informed, there is at this time no officer of the regular forces in Florida, of a higher rank than a brevet major.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. L. Cass,
Secretary of War.

Tallahassee, *July* 7, 1836.

Sir: Within the last few days several scouting parties of Indians have appeared on the west side of the Suwanee river, and at three different times persons have been fired on when travelling the road where the country is thinly populated. One man has been killed, and one wounded. A party of horsemen were near one of the scenes of violence, and gave immediate pursuit; but a heavy shower of rain which fell soon after so completely obliterated their tracks that it became impossible to follow them. I have

sent several detachments of horsemen in pursuit, and I hope they may yet overtake and destroy the Indians.

I have just received intelligence, by express, of a successful scout made by Colonel John Warren, of the East Florida volunteers, on the morning of the 31st ultimo, at the head of a detachment of mounted men; he struck the trail of a party of Indians about sunrise, which he pursued until two o'clock, P. M., when he overtook them at a place where they had halted. A charge was made upon them; seven were killed on the spot, and the eighth escaped into an adjoining hammock; but, from the quantity of blood found on his trail, it is believed he was mortally wounded. Not one of our men received the slightest injury.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 15, 1836.

SIR: I enclose, for the information of the department, a copy of a general order issued by Major General Scott, on the 2d instant, from which it appears that the Tennessee volunteers ordered to Florida, though raised under an act of Congress requiring them to serve during the period of six or twelve months, are ordered by the late commanding general to be mustered into service *for three months only, unless sooner discharged.* This measure I have deemed so entirely contrary to the policy and intention of the Government, that I have considered it my duty to bring it to your notice, in order that, if it be not approved, the most prompt measures may be adopted to prevent the evils which may be anticipated from such a cause. If the term of service of these troops shall be limited to three months, one third of the time almost will expire before the commencement of the campaign, and the residue may not be sufficient to put an end to the war.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 21, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of the official report of Captain Lee, relative to the engagement with the Indians near Micanopy, on the 9th day of June last. Captain Lee explains sufficiently the reason why this report is now made, and why it was not made at an earlier period. The gallant Major Heileman was breveted for his conduct on that occasion, but unfortunately did not live to receive the intelligence of this acknowledgment of his worth. It appears to me, both from the report of Major Heileman and Captain Lee, that the latter officer and the two surviving lieutenants, who acted under his orders, are equally entitled to this distinction; I would therefore respectfully suggest the propriety, as well as the justice, of conferring brevets on Captain Lee, Lieutenant Humphreys,

and Lieutenant Talcott, for the gallantry and bravery with which they fought on that occasion. This just reward for their services would have a happy effect on the future operations of the army.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commander-in-chief.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

FORT DEFIANCE,
Micanopy, E. F., July 12, 1836.

SIR: On the day following the engagement near this place with the Indians, on the 9th of June last, Major Heileman made a hasty and imperfect report of the event to Brig. Gen. Eustis, who at that time commanded the troops in Florida, in which he merely gave a general outline of the occurrences of the morning, stating to me at the time, that, as soon as the state of my wounds would allow me to give him a special account of my knowledge of the affair, he should make a detailed report of it, based upon the representations of Lieutenants Wheelock and Humphreys and myself. Within three or four days afterwards Major Heileman was attacked with a severe illness, that terminated in his death; which sudden and lamented event has deprived the army of one of its most valuable officers, at a time, too, when our country could ill afford to lose the services of such an accomplished and gallant officer.

The death of Major Heileman devolves upon me the duty of giving you a detailed statement of the occurrences of the engagement. In performing this duty, I shall confine myself to a plain relation of facts, leaving it to you to draw such conclusions as the circumstances of the case may seem to warrant.

On the morning of the 9th June last, about ten o'clock, the enemy, in large force, having shown himself about three-quarters of a mile from our picketting, in an easterly direction, the troops were immediately paraded under arms, and orders given by Major Heileman to Lieutenant Wheelock, in command of about 25 dragoons, and myself, in command of 19 men of company I, 3d artillery, and a brave volunteer teamster, named More Black, to make a sortie and attack him. Being the senior officer, I was directed to take command, and, having received Major Heileman's final orders, I instructed Lieutenant Wheelock in what manner to approach and assail the enemy. I then proceeded with my immediate command, by a route concealed from the observation of the enemy, and, after marching about half a mile obliquely to the right, to the point of a small hammock, near the Tuscawitta lake, unexpectedly found that the opposite extremity of this hammock, about 300 yards from my position, was occupied by a large body of Indians. Just at this time Lieutenant Humphreys, who had been ordered out by Major Heileman subsequently to my leaving the pickets, arrived with a detachment of 25 men, composed of detachments from companies D and C of the 2d regiment of artillery. I directed him to make a circuit to the left, around the hammock; which order he promptly obeyed, and had not proceeded more than 250 yards before he found himself in contact with the enemy's left. The dragoons, led on by their intrepid and gallant commander, Lieutenant Wheelock, whose untimely death we have recently been called upon to mourn, were now warmly engaged with the enemy's

right, charging on horseback, and delivering their fire without dismounting, the Indians retreating before them. Having delivered their first fire, they reloaded on their ground, charged and fired again, and so on, until the enemy were forced into the Tuscawitta hammock, their stronghold. Meantime Lieutenant Humphreys gallantly charged the left, the enemy keeping up a retreating fire. Lieutenant Humphreys made several efforts to bring them to close quarters, but in vain; they having the advantage in celerity of movements. As the enemy approached the hammock in retreating, the length of his front was necessarily diminished, and, as a consequence, the different detachments of our troops were brought nearer together. Lieutenant Humphreys at this time observed one or two attempts to outflank our left, which he as often defeated by a prompt and judicious movement in that direction.

Having given Lieutenant Humphreys his orders, I proceeded to enter the hammock, moving in an oblique direction towards the rear of the enemy. The trees being sparse, and the underwood not sufficiently thick, in many places, to conceal my men, I was obliged to move with great caution and celerity. I soon found myself in the enemy's rear, at the distance of about 150 yards. I continued to move on until I reached the extreme verge of the hammock, being at that time about 20 paces in front of my company. It now became necessary to examine more particularly the position of the enemy, in order to attack him to the best advantage. I therefore crept forward about 10 or 12 paces, upon a small *knoll*, and found myself in full view of about 50 Indians, as many more being concealed behind the brow of a small hill, the nearest about 20, and the farthest about 40 yards off. Their backs were towards me, and they were eagerly and intently observing the movements of the troops commanded by Lieutenants Wheelock and Humphreys. The dragoons, under Lieutenant Wheelock, having a few moments previously become warmly engaged, I remained several seconds in this position, my men still advancing; during which time I observed two Indians, whom I supposed to be chiefs, from their earnest conversation and gestures, which induced me to believe that they intended to make a movement to the rear of Lieutenants Humphreys and Wheelock, from whom they were as yet entirely concealed. My men had now arrived at the verge of the hammock, and I only required five paces more to enable me to pour a volley amongst them, before their knowing of my presence, when we were unfortunately discovered. Being in advance of my men, and on elevated ground, and my dress being somewhat conspicuous, I soon became a general mark. Instantly I gave the command to charge, raised my rifle, and flashed it at one of the supposed chiefs. The scene of panic and confusion which ensued on the part of the Indians baffles all description. Some fired at me without taking aim, some fled without firing at all, and some took to trees. My company was now clear of the bushes and charging handsomely, throwing in shots whenever a good opportunity offered; myself leading about 12 paces in advance. I had proceeded only a few steps, when I felt a terrible concussion against my shoulder, a great difficulty in breathing, and was seized with bleeding at the mouth. I found that I was badly wounded, but, having strength to keep my feet, determined to lead the charge as long as I could stand. I turned to my men, observed to them that I was wounded, and ordered them to push ahead. I had scarcely resumed my post, and advanced three or four paces, when I was brought to the ground, by a severe wound through the thigh, given by an Indian who was about 20 yards distant, behind a tree. Sergeant Hall, my orderly sergeant, came and

asked whether he should have me carried from the field. I told him no; to charge with every man. It was not necessary to repeat the order. The men sprang forward at the word. As the rear of the company was about passing me, one of my sergeants and several of my men came and urged me to be removed to a safer place. I ordered them to leave me where I was, and charge. One of them asked me to lend him my rifle, and in a moment more I found myself alone. Having remained in this situation upwards of an hour, and the battle being over, my orderly sergeant, with several men, returned, and informed me that the enemy were entirely driven off and silenced. The remainder of the company, under Sergeant Bennett, moved to the left and joined Lieutenant Humphreys. Lieutenant Wheelock and his command were the first to get into the action; my company was the next, and Lieutenant Humphreys and his command were engaged immediately afterwards. Not more than five or six minutes elapsed after the first fire upon the dragoons, before all three of our detachments encountered the enemy. As soon as the action became general, Major Heileman left the pickets with a six-pounder field-piece, and advanced rapidly towards the scene of action; but when he had nearly arrived within reach of the enemy, some person reported to him that a body of Indians were moving towards the rear of the pickets. Apprehending an attack in that direction, and there being but a few teamsters and citizens, besides the sick, left within the work, under the command of Lieutenant Talcott, Major Heileman deemed it necessary immediately to return to the pickets with the gun; but, finding on his arrival that the alarm was false, he directed Lieutenant Talcott to proceed at full speed with the field-piece, to where the troops were still engaged with the enemy. This order was promptly obeyed by Lieutenant Talcott, who arrived on the field just in time to render good service in finally silencing the fire of the retreating enemy, who, after a few well-directed shots from the artillery, sought shelter in an extensive and dense hammock, about two miles from the pickets, and about a mile and a quarter from where the battle first began.

The engagement lasted about an hour and a quarter. The Indian force is supposed to have been at least 250. Ours, you will observe, amounted to but 70 men, exclusive of those with the field-piece, which arrived upon the field just at the close of the action.

Three of our men were severely wounded, one of whom has since died, and another has lost an arm. Three others are slightly wounded. Of the officers, I was the only one injured, having received two severe wounds—one in my left shoulder, and one through my left thigh. The enemy, it is believed, suffered severely, but to what extent cannot be ascertained, as those disabled by our fire were borne off by their retreating comrades.

In closing this report, I feel great pleasure in expressing in this public manner, at the unanimous request of the officers present, the high sense entertained by us of the unremitted exertions of Mr. George Center, a citizen of this place, in rendering every assistance in his power, both to the wounded and the well among our troops, not only on the day of our engagement with the enemy, but at all times. I cannot too highly applaud his generous and disinterested conduct.

I am, sir, with much respect, your obedient servant,

R. B. LEE,
Brevet Captain 3d Artillery.

His Excellency Governor CALL,
Commander-in-chief Army of Florida.

Tallahassee, *July* 25, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing the copy of one to General Jesup of the same date. The friendly Indians you mention, would be of great service to me; and I have written to General Jesup, requesting him to send them with as little delay as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. Lewis Cass, *Secretary of War.*

Tallahassee, *July* 31, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to send you, herewith, the copies of three letters; the one from Lieutenant Maitland giving the particulars of an attack on the escort while removing the quartermaster and other stores from Fort Drane. A copy of the order for its abandonment is also enclosed, which, with the copy of Captain Merchant's letter, will show you the necessity of this movement. There was no reason why this particular post should be maintained, more than would apply to any in its vicinity, or in the enemy's country. There was little else than the public stores to be protected, the enemy being in full possession of the surrounding country. The new post, after the sick have recovered, can be maintained by a smaller force than occupies both at present. I have ordered a sufficient reinforcement to protect the movement. Captain Gardner's letter will show you the necessity of keeping open the communication between Micanopy and Garey's Ferry, and the difficulties attending it, with his limited force. A report from Col. Crane, the officer in command at St. Augustine, shows the mounted companies at St. Augustine are unfit for service, on account of sickness. I have ordered him, in case of its continuance, to dismount them, and turn over the horses to the quartermaster, to be put in order for the summer campaign. I have ordered a levy of one-fourth of the number able to bear arms in the Territory; this, in addition to the regular force and volunteers now on duty, will not prove sufficient for the protection of so defenceless and extensive a frontier. Depredations are committed by small parties of the enemy almost weekly, and within 25 or 30 miles of this place. The force equal to prevent them, in the present worn out state and scanty numbers of the militia, would, I am fully persuaded, be equal to attacking them and beating them in their own fastnesses. I have written to Brigadier General Armstrong, now commanding the Tennessee volunteers, encamped near Montgomery, making known my intention of marching, if his command or a similar force should join me. I have reason to believe the Tennessee volunteers will come; they are only detained by a dread of the climate, which I think a more intimate acquaintance would remove.

It appears, by reports received here, that the disaffected Creeks are crossing in large numbers; one force, said to be 500 strong, has been attacked twice by the volunteers of Georgia, and repulsed each time. They are now pursued by General Sandford, whose force I shall augment 150 men, should he bring them to a halt on the route; this being my greatest disposable force. The present position of the force in Alabama and Georgia is favorable to the escape of the Creeks, and we may expect the number to increase.

Some small parties have preceded this one; they have been successfully met, and but few escaped.

I had the honor, on a former occasion, to request that 250 or 300 sailors and marines should be sent to assist in getting the barges up the Withlacoochie river. If the order be not already issued, I would be extremely glad that it be done, and that one or two of the United States revenue cutters be ordered to report to me at St. Mark's.

I have the honor to remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL, *Governor of Florida.*

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

Copies of the documents referred to in Governor Call's letter of the 31st July, 1836, addressed to the Secretary of War.

FORT DEFIANCE,
Micanopy, East Florida, July 19, 1836.

SIR: In obedience to your instructions to evacuate the post at Fort Drane, if the commanding officer, in exercising a sound discretion, should deem it necessary, I have the honor to report, that the commanding officer, Captain Merchant, of the 2d regiment artillery, in consequence of the large and increasing sick report, determined to remove the troops to this place. The movement commenced this day at 8 o'clock, consisting of 22 wagons, loaded with commissary and quartermaster's stores, with an escort of a detachment of 26 dragoons of the 2d regiment, under the command of Captain Ashby, and 36 men, detailed from the different artillery companies at the post; also, a 5½-inch howitzer, under the charge of Lieutenant Whiteley, 2d artillery, making a force of 62 men. On our arrival at Wi li-ka pond, within one mile of this place, the discharge of several rifles apprized us of the presence of the enemy. Captain Ashby immediately went with his dragoons in the direction from which the fire was delivered, and scoured the neighboring hammocks, without finding the enemy. It is proper to state, here, that in the first fire, private Holmes, of the dragoons, was severely wounded in the abdomen, (since dead.) Proceeding on our route, opposite a long hammock, within a quarter of a mile of Micanopy, we were attacked by a large body of Indians, estimated, from what we saw of them, and from their firing, to be 250 strong. The firing commenced near the front, and on the right of the train, and was continued through its whole length, a quarter of a mile. The men returned the fire with spirit and promptness. During the engagement, Captain Ashby, (who, I regret to say, was, soon after the commencement of it, severely wounded, but refused to leave the field until loss of blood compelled him,) finding the enemy in great strength, and pressing on us, despatched a dragoon to this place for a reinforcement. On his way, he met two detachments, under Lieutenants Temple and Talcott, 31 strong, on their march to assist us. They arrived at an important moment, and did us good service. Lieutenant Temple reached us, having scoured, on his approach, a point of hammock from which the enemy had very much annoyed us. As soon as Lieutenant Temple and his command had taken their position in line, Captain Ashby ordered a charge in the hammock; which was instantly executed, and the Indians driven beyond the reach of our fire. During this time, Lieutenant Talcott was actively employed in removing the wagons in their direction to this place.

Of the good conduct and courage of the troops, it is sufficient to say that every man did his duty. My gallant commander, Captain Ashby, distinguished himself by his courage and activity, and did not leave the field, after having received a severe wound, until feebleness from loss of blood made it absolutely necessary.

First Lieutenant Temple, 3d artillery, rendered the most essential service, by his timely arrival from Fort Defiance, and the gallant manner in which he charged the hammock. Lieutenant Whiteley, who had charge of the howitzer, served it in the most efficient manner; and, from his prominent position, was a mark for the enemy, which drew a sharp fire on him, and disabled several of his men. I regret to say Assistant Surgeon Weightman received a severe wound in his left thigh. Sergeants Smith, Johnson, of (D company) 2d dragoons; Smith, (F,) 1st artillery; Hall, (I,) 3d artillery; Peterson, (I,) 3d artillery; Brydon, (H,) 3d artillery; all distinguished themselves by their courage and good conduct in discharging the several duties that devolved on them.

Report of the killed and wounded at the battle of Wi-li-ka, East Florida, 19th of July, 1836.

Mortally wounded,	5	2 since dead.
Severely, - - -	5	
Slightly - - - -	1	
Total - - -	11	

From our well-directed fire, we no doubt killed and wounded many of the enemy, but, as is usual, they carried them off to the dense hammock to which they retreated. We had three horses killed on the field and several severely wounded.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. MAITLAND,
1st Lieutenant commanding.

General R. K. Call,
Commanding U. S. troops in Florida.

Fort Drane, Florida, *July* 19, 1836.

Sir: On yesterday I reported to you my arrival at this place, that the post would be abandoned, and the troops be stationed at Micanopy. The movement was commenced this morning; the whole baggage-train, loaded with a part of the stores, escorted by a detachment of eighty men, (about thirty of whom were mounted,) with a 5½-inch howitzer under the command of Captain Ashby. I have been informed by the express from Micanopy that an attack was made on them about half a mile on this side of that post, by about from 180 to 200 Indians; that several men (eight or nine) and two officers (Captain Ashby of the dragoons, and Doctor Weightman) were severely wounded. This occurrence shows that the troops cannot be removed, or the post supplied with stores, unless we have assistance from some quarter. It is necessary that the troops be removed as soon as practicable; I must, therefore, request that you cause such assistance to be given as may enable us to remove our sick (and the number is not small, being four officers and one hundred and thirty-three men) to a healthy situation, and

our stores where they may be available. The escort should consist at least of 200 men; about 150, in addition to the number that can be spared from this garrison, would probably be sufficient to effect the movement in safety. I have applied to Major Kirby for a sufficient force, but it is doubtful whether he can furnish it, as he informed me before he left Garey's Ferry, in answer to an application then made for an additional escort for the baggage train, that, under the circumstances, (the men being sick, &c.,) I must make the most of the means then under my control: he could spare none. I will report more fully so soon as I ascertain the particulars of the action. No stores have been brought up since Captain Dimmick reported to you about the last of June.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. S. MERCHANT,
Captain 2d artillery, commanding.

General R. K. CALL,
Commanding troops in Florida.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 2.

HEADQUARTERS,
Tallahassee, July 4, 1836.

The commander-in-chief, with deep regret, announces to the troops stationed in Florida the death of Major J. F. Heileman, late commanding officer at Fort Drane. The loss of this valuable officer will be severely experienced by the whole army. In consequence of the unhealthiness of Fort Drane, and the recommendation of the surgeon and other officers that it be immediately abandoned, the senior officer now stationed in East Florida will repair immediately to that post and assume the command. Should the ill health of the garrison continue in its present distressing condition, he will cause a reconnoissance to be made of the neighboring country, with a view of selecting a more favorable position, to which the garrison and public stores may be removed. From the difficulty of removing the large amount of public property at that place, it is important that the nearest position promising good health should be selected. The garrison, enfeebled by disease, may not be able, in its present condition, to erect another fortification without great hazard, both from fatigue and exposure as well as from the attacks of the enemy. Should the commanding officer entertain this opinion, he will cause a sufficient reinforcement to be drawn from St. Augustine, and other posts from which troops may be spared, to enable him to effect this change in his position with safety to the garrison and public stores. In the performance of this duty, the commanding officer will exercise a sound discretion, bearing in mind, at the same time, that his removal must take place in the presence of an active and watchful enemy, ever ready to avail himself of any want of vigilance on our part.

The new position which may be assumed will be only temporary, and intended to promote the health of the garrison. Preparations are now making for an expedition into the enemy's country; and, so soon as they shall have been completed, the regular troops, except a small garrison at each post, will concentrate at a point hereafter to be designated, where they will be joined by 1,200 Tennessee volunteers and the forces of the Territory. It is expected that the expedition will be ready to move early in August. From a report of the strength of the garrison at Fort Drane, it

appears that there are but one captain and six lieutenants present, while there are four captains and sixteen lieutenants absent: four of the officers present are on the sick report, leaving but three to perform the arduous and responsible duties of the post. If any of the officers belonging to the post and in the Territory, and the services in which they are engaged can be dispensed with, they will be ordered to join their respective commands without delay. If they are abroad, the commanding officer is requested to state whether they are on furlough or special duty, that the proper measures may be taken to secure their attendance. If the services of Lieutenant Clark, the assistant quartermaster at Fort Drane, can be dispensed with, the commanding officer will order him to Black creek, to take charge of the public property at that place.

R. K. CALL,
Commander-in-chief of the troops in Florida.

GAREY'S FERRY, FLORIDA, *July* 22, 1836.

SIR: Early on yesterday morning I despatched an express on the way to St. Augustine with a communication to Major Kirby, from the commanding officer at Micanopy, calling on him for two companies of mounted men to assist in repressing the large Indian force with whom the action of the 19th occurred, and to keep open the communication with Fort Drane; I suppose these two companies are on their march thither.

By a note from Captain Merchant, at Fort Drane, just received, as well as by another from Micanopy, received yesterday, I am admonished of the probability of an attack on this place: in confirmation of which, a force of some fifty Indians was, I am informed, discovered to day within some eight miles of this place, in a southwesterly direction. Our force is only about eighty men, of whom *—teen are now absent on a *scouting* party. No tidings yet of Captain Childs's company, and, considering the prevalence of southerly winds at this season, and the great distance of the station from which he is ordered, it is, I think, doubtful whether he arrives during this month.

In the present reduced state of the garrisons in this quarter, invested, as they all are in some sort, by large Indian forces, it is getting to be doubtful whether the necessary communication can be maintained; and, assuredly, a less force than two hundred men (one third mounted) would not, under existing circumstances, be a *sufficient* escort to the large convoys from this principal depot.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN GARDNER,
Brevet Major, commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Commanding in-chief, Headquarters, Tallahassee.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 12, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose you a copy of a letter which I have just received from Capt. Armstrong, commanding the transport schooner "Motto," together with copies of my correspondence with Commodore Dal-

---

* Indistinct.

las and Captain Mix, of the United States navy. From the letter of Capt. Armstrong, we have every reason to fear that the intercourse is maintained between the hostile Indians of Florida and the Spanish fishermen and traders on the coast, and that many of the negroes taken from our planters by the Indians have already been carried to the island of Cuba. This is an evil which I anticipated, and on the 26th of May I addressed a letter to Commodore Dallas (a copy of which is herewith sent) requesting that cruisers might be employed on the coast, to cut off all communication between the Indians and Spanish fishermen. The Commodore, by a forced construction of my request, seems to have regarded it as an order, and returned no answer until after the receipt of my letter of the 25th June, when he replied to both letters, expressing his objections (most unnecessarily) to giving him orders, as this is an authority which I never thought of assuming; and the enclosed copies of my letters, I think, will show how unfounded his apprehensions were on that subject. In his reply, the Commodore appears to be perfectly satisfied with the sufficiency of his own arrangements to effect the object I had in view; but if the statement of Capt. Armstrong may be relied on, it will appear his plans, so far as they have been executed, were entirely unsuccessful. I have again to request that two of the revenue cutters may be placed subject to my orders. I find it indispensably necessary to have vessels at my command, to communicate with the different posts on the seaboard; and hitherto I have been unable to procure them. You will perceive, from my letter to Commodore Dallas, that I requested a survey to be made of the coast and inlets between the Withlacoochie and Tampa Bay; and, from his letter in reply, you will discover that he enclosed me a letter to Captain Mix, of the "Concord," then at the latter place, to be sent to him as I might find an opportunity. I addressed Captain Mix on the subject, as you will perceive from a copy of my letter herewith enclosed; but before I could succeed in sending my letter, or that of Commodore Dallas, the "Concord," I understood, had sailed from Tampa to Pensacola; and I am not advised that any survey has yet been made. The importance of the survey will be obvious when you are informed that there are several inlets on that part of the coast, which are said to extend far into the interior, and which, it is believed, will, when properly examined, afford great facilities in supplying the army with provisions, when acting in that quarter. I hope no time will be lost in placing at least two of the cutters at my disposal: the "Dexter" is now at Indian Key, and should be ordered to remain in the neighborhood for the defence of that place. Captain Armstrong informed me, verbally, that there are no cruisers between New river and Indian Key, a part of the coast where it is most probable the Indians would have intercourse with the Spanish traders. If an intercourse is permitted between them, all the negroes captured or seduced from our plantations will find a market on the coast, and the Indians will be supplied, in return, with whatever they may require. From the letter of Captain Armstrong, it appears that he has reported the result of his cruise to Captain Mix, and it is probable that Commodore Dallas has already ordered vessels to Cape Sable and New river; but I have considered it my duty to report the circumstances for your information.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

Documents referred to in Governor Call's letter of August 12, 1836, addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 26, 1836.

SIR: It is believed that the Spanish fishermen on the coast of Florida are favorable to the Indians; and it is apprehended that they may, unless prevented, supply them with ammunition, and transport the stores captured from our planters to the island of Cuba. To prevent such a traffic, I have to request that the small cruisers under your command, and the revenue-cutters, may be constantly employed on the coast, with orders to cut off all communications between the Indians and foreigners.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Commodore ALEXANDER J. DALLAS,
United States Navy.

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 25, 1836.

SIR: On the 26th of May I made a request of you, in my official capacity, which appears to have received no attention whatever. Were I disposed to regard etiquette more than duty, I should not trouble you again; but this I am not permitted to do, under my instructions from the War Department, even if it were my disposition. I have, therefore, to request that a competent officer and crew may be ordered from the squadron under your command, to make a survey of the coast between Tampa Bay and the mouth of the Withlacoochie river. This survey will be highly important in the contemplated expedition against the Indians, many of whom, it is believed are, on the rivers and inlets on that part of the coast, of which we have so little knowledge. The object of the survey is to ascertain the practicability of ascending those inlets and rivers with boats to carry supplies to the army intended to operate in that quarter. The vessel employed in this service should be one of light draught, and well supplied with boats capable of being well fortified. If a suitable one can be chartered, the quartermaster will be instructed to pay for it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Commodore A. J. DALLAS,
Commanding West India Squadron.

UNITED STATES FRIGATE CONSTELLATION,
Pensacola Bay, July 2, 1836.

SIR: Your letter of the 25th ultimo has been duly received, as was yours of the 26th of May. It is not my intention to cavil, or in any manner to place obstacles in the way to a full and perfect co-operation of the naval force under my command with any force that may be engaged with the Seminole Indians or others. On the contrary, from the moment I first understood the critical position of Florida, I was the first to tender all the service within the power of my command, by sending men and officers to Tampa Bay; and previously to the receipt of your letter of the 26th May,

had distributed along the seaboard of Florida, and northern coast of Cuba, the different vessels of the squadron, with directions to examine and prevent any supplies from reaching the Indians, or any property captured by them taken from the Territory. All vessels now on the coast have similar instructions up to the present moment. I flatter myself nothing has been neglected or left undone that could in any way give effect to the military force in Florida. This explanation of what has been done is given, not that I feel in the least called upon to make it, but out of courtesy to your station as Governor of Florida, and the high consideration I entertain of you as a gentleman. Enclosed is a duplicate of my letter to you of the 13th ultimo, forwarded to you by mail, and which covered one for General Clinch.

The United States steamers American and Major Dade, officered and manned and fitted out from the squadron, have proceeded to the Chattahoochee.

The officers commanding these are directed to communicate with you, General Jesup, and General Clinch. Another boat will shortly follow the same direction, agreeably to instructions from the Navy Department. Should the necessity of the continuance on that river be obviated by a termination of the war on the part of the Creeks, they will be employed on any part of the coast of Florida where their services may be most available. Enclosed are copies from letters of Master Commandant Webb and Lieut. Doughty, showing that a partial examination of the mouth of the Amaxura has been made, and that a cutter was employed cruising in February and March last between the Anclote Keys and Charlotte harbor for the purpose of intercepting supplies to the Indians, &c., &c.

All the vessels belonging to this squadron are now at sea, except this frigate.

So soon as a suitable one can be procured, your wish in regard to the survey of the coast from Tampa to the Amaxura, or Withlacoochie, will meet all attention. In the mean time, I will direct the commander of the Concord, now at Tampa, to send an expedition with a proper officer in boats on that service, and to report the result to me, and will forward a copy of that report to you. I enclose you a letter to that effect to Captain Mix, to be forwarded, as no opportunity may occur from this place for a long time.

I must, in conclusion, be permitted to say, that I shall be most happy to communicate, in any way most agreeable to yourself, for the full advancement of the objects of the present campaign, and in every manner tender you the hearty co operation of the forces at my disposal; but in your communications I beg that your suggestions may have less the character of an order than those heretofore received. Any suggestion of yours, however, will meet with prompt attention from me, provided a compliance with them does not interfere with duties more important. I am directed to communicate with Major General Jesup, the Governor of Florida, and General Clinch, which has been done; and from each and every one I shall be most happy to hear and receive any suggestion that may tend to advance the views of either; but not having been placed under the command of either, and having other duties equally important to attend to, with the force under my direction, I hope that the etiquette in which I have been found wanting (not intentionally) may not be lost sight of in any communication that it may become necessary to make to me as commanding officer of the squadron acting in the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico. The orders I have received

shall be liberally, as well as literally, executed; but I cannot receive orders from any one but the head of the department, from which all my instructions are derived, and under whose directions I am, and shall continue to act.

I have the honor to be, with much consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

A. J. DALLAS.

To His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee.

A true copy:

CHARLES MAPES,
P. M. United States Army.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 6, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to enclose you a letter from Commodore Dallas to your address, which I have just received. I am advised that it relates to the survey of the coast between Hillsborough Bay and the mouth of the Withlacoochie. This survey has been ordered at my request, and is intended to ascertain the security or insecurity of the anchorage at the mouths of the bays and inlets on that part of the coast, and the practicability of ascending those bays and inlets with barges, for the purpose of supplying the army while operating in that part of the country. We are already informed that boats drawing three feet of water can cross the bar at the entrance of the Withlacoochie, but we are not sufficiently acquainted with the anchorage off the mouth of this river. It is expected that an expedition to the mouth of this river will be ready to move in steamboats from St. Mark's by the 1st of August, and it is very desirable that the information sought for may be obtained by that time. I shall endeavor to send a pilot with this communication, who will attend the boats you may order to make the survey, and will remain to bring such intelligence as you may please to communicate on the subject.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Commander M. P. MIX,
U. S. ship Concord, Tampa Bay.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, *August* 12, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your request to give you, in writing, the circumstances, related to you verbally this morning, which came to my knowledge during a cruise in the United States transport schooner Motto from Tampa Bay to Florida Key and Cape Florida, under an order from Captain Mix, of the United States ship Concord, I report as follows: I left Tampa Bay on the 7th July, having, in addition to my crew, eighteen men under Lieutenant Leib and Midshipman Stanley. Having made a full report to Captain Mix, I will only mention a few particulars—that is, the probability of the Indians receiving supplies from the Spaniards. On arriving at Knight's Key, I was told by Captain Ashby, who resides there, that on the 13th a large

Spanish sloop had passed through Cape Vacis channel direct from Cape Sable; and as it is out of the route of vessels except for that purpose, she must have been to the cape for that purpose. On arriving at Indian Key, I was informed by Mr. How, the inspector of the customs, that a large armed schooner had arrived at the Key for provisions; she was full of men; that, on going off to board her, they refused to let him come alongside. The pilot of one of the wrecking-vessels, who piloted her from Cape Florida, reported her full of negroes, apparently not ironed; and, from the different account of the captain, who stated that she was a Spanish Guineaman chased by an English cruiser, and had run off to the Florida coast, (but, from her having new sails and copper, she could not have been from the coast of Africa,) they must have been Indian negroes taken from New river, as she had been seen off New river for several days; but, as there was no cutter in the vicinity, they were unable to detain her or board her. She left Indian Key and proceeded to sea. We left Indian Key on the arrival of the revenue-cutter Dexter for the wreck of the Gil Blas; destroyed her; and, on our return to Cape Florida, found the light-house on fire, burnt by the Indians; landed and rescued Mr. Thompson, the keeper, from the top of it; returned to Key West and Tampa Bay; from thence to St. Mark's; and by your order, reported to the assistant quartermaster of the United States army.

Yours, respectfully,
JAMES M. ARMSTRONG,
Master of U. S. transport schooner Motto.

I certify the above to be a true copy.

CHARLES MAPES,
Paymaster United States army.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 18, 1836.

SIR: In my letter of the 14th instant, I mentioned that I had received no report of the survey I had requested Commodore Dallas to have made of the coast between Tampa Bay and the mouth of the Withlacoochie river. It is proper I should inform you that, since that time, I have received a letter from the Commodore, accompanied with a chart of the coast, and a report of the officer by whom it was made.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 5, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of the report of Major Pierce, of the artillery, giving the result of a very gallant attack made by him on a party of Indians under the command of Powell. The conduct of Major Pierce, and that of the officers and men under his command, reflects on them the highest credit, and merits the respectful consideration of the Government.

I regret exceedingly to be under the necessity of reporting the death of Captain Samuel Shannon, of the Quartermaster's Department: he died at this place yesterday, of bilious fever, after an illness of about ten days. The whole army, as well as myself, will sustain a severe loss in the death of this invaluable officer.

I have to request, sir, that another officer of the Quartermaster's Department, provided with funds to meet the expenses of the approaching campaign, may be ordered to report to me without delay. This measure becomes the more necessary as the Tennessee volunteers are on their march, and will be here in ten days. After resting themselves and horses a short time, they will proceed by a rapid march to the enemy's country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

[Referred to in the preceding letter.]

MICANOPY, *August* 21, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that I arrived here yesterday, and, learning that there were Indians lurking about Fort Drane, ten miles from this post, I determined to make an expedition against them. For this purpose, I marched at two o'clock this morning, with 110 men and a piece of ordnance—fifty men commanded by Captain Childs, of the 3d artillery, and Lieutenant Spalding, of the 2d dragoons; fifty men by Lieutenant J. R. Irwin and Lieutenant Herbert, of the 1st artillery. I arrived at Fort Drane about sunrise; attacked the Indians, who proved to be numerous, (say 300 Mickasukie Indians,) commanded by Powell. Lieutenants Irwin and Herbert on the right; Captain Childs and Lieutenant Spalding on the left; the artillery in the centre, commanded by Lieutenant Pichell—all attacked them with great vigor and spirit; drove them three-quarters of a mile into an extensive hammock. In a hurried passage over the field, counted ten dead. This engagement was well conducted by the Indians, who fought with determined bravery for more than an hour. The recesses to which they retired could not be penetrated by our exhausted and inferior force. I therefore marched the detachment back to Micanopy, leaving no killed and wounded on the field. Our loss was one killed and sixteen wounded, viz:

Lieutenant Betts (my adjutant) wounded slightly in the thigh;

Sergeants Durtin, (C,) 4th artillery; Ayres, (A,) 3d artillery, wounded;

Corporals McKnight, (C,) 4th artillery; North, (I,) 3d artillery; Dennis, (A,) 3d artillery, wounded;

Artificers Shiffington, (C,) 4th artillery; Sinclair, (E,) 1st artillery, wounded;

Musician Alexander Hin, (G,) 1st artillery, wounded;

Privates Shieler, (E,) 1st artillery; Tual, (A,) 3d artillery; Coppington, (C,) 4th artillery; Storey, (A,) 3d artillery; Rifloiss, (A,) 3d artillery; Bennett, (D,) 1st artillery, wounded—none thought dangerous;

Wagon-master Jackson, severely wounded.

Killed: Sikes, private, (C,) 1st artillery.

The officers of my command were, Captain Childs, 3d artillery; Lieutenant Pichell, 4th artillery; Lieutenant J. R. Irwin, 1st artillery; Lieutenant Spalding, 2d dragoons; Lieutenant Herbert, 1st artillery; Lieutenant William H. Betts, (adjutant,) 1st artillery; Surgeons Tripler and Berry.

The officers and men all justified my most sanguine expectations.

I deem it due to Captain Childs to state that he contemplated the same movement previous to my arrival, and was waiting the arrival of the train to accomplish his purpose.

Jackson, a wagon-master, well acquainted with the localities of Fort Drane, who volunteered his services as a guide on the march, and acted as a soldier in the engagement, was brave and useful. He received two severe wounds, lost a valuable horse, and deserves a liberal reward.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. K. PIERCE,
Major Artillery.

Lieutenant Colonel CRANE,
St. Augustine.

I certify the above to be a true copy.

CHARLES MAPES, *U. S. A.*,
Aid-de camp to Commander-in chief.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 7, 1836.

SIR: I regret very much to inform you of the abandonment of Micanopy, by order of Colonel Crane. I deem the measure as injudicious as it was unnecessary. Micanopy is about seventy-five miles in advance of Garey's Ferry, on Black creek, and within thirty or forty miles of the principal Indian settlements. It answered the double purpose of holding the enemy in check, and as a depot for the stores required for the army, when operating in that quarter. For some time past, Colonel Crane, in his correspondence, has frequently alluded to the abandonment of Micanopy as a measure that might become necessary, and, in reply, I have as often shown my disapprobation of the measure. Not presuming after this that he would attempt an abandonment, and hearing of the approach of the Tennesseans, I sent an order to him, by express, directing him to place as large a quantity of supplies as possible at that place for the use of the army; but the day after the departure of the express, I received intelligence that the post had been abandoned. In consequence of this, the Indians have already advanced as high up the country as Newnansville, and driven off all the stock of the inhabitants; and but for the timely relief which we may expect from the Tennesseans, the whole country would be overrun.

The abandonment of Micanopy will greatly retard the operations of the army. Instead of having a supply of provisions and ammunition within forty miles of the enemy, at the opening of the campaign, from which the army might have marched immediately upon the enemy, it will now have to draw its resources from posts one hundred miles in the interior, through a country completely desolated by the enemy. Had Colonel Crane been an officer of militia, I should not have hesitated a moment in putting him in arrest. But as my command of the regular troops is temporary, I have called on him to report the reasons by which he was induced to adopt this extraordinary measure, and, when received, I shall forward it with my cor-

respondence on the subject to you, to be laid before the President of the United States.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commander-in-chief.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 18, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose copies of my last letters to General Jesup and Commodore Dallas, which will explain to you fully my plans for conducting the war against the Seminole Indians. Since the date of those letters, I have had a personal interview with General Jesup, in which, with great magnanimity, he declines the command of the army in Florida, and proposes to serve under my authority as a volunteer. It is gratifying to me to know that the country will have the benefit of his talents and experience, even though he declines the nominal command of the army. He will be in Florida by the 25th instant, with the forces under his command. I shall march to-morrow at the head of the Tennessee and a small number of the Florida volunteers, and hope to meet the enemy before the 1st of October.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding the Army in Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Copies of the documents referred to in Governor Call's letter of the 18th of September, 1836, addressed to the Hon. Lewis Cass.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 8, 1836.

GENERAL: I have received your letters of the 21st and 31st ultimo. I am highly gratified to learn that you will dispose so promptly of the Creek nation, and that, after performing this important duty, you will proceed to Florida with the regular forces. I regret very much, however, to find you have declined the command of the army. I assure you, sir, nothing would afford me greater pleasure than to yield to you, as there is no man in our country for whose capacity in the field I have so much respect as yours. I hope, however, I shall certainly have the pleasure of seeing you with the troops, for, whether you are nominally in command or not, your experience and your talents will give direction, and, I doubt not, success to our operations against the enemy.

I shall look with great anxiety for the arrival of the Tennesseans and the friendly Creeks, whose immediate assistance has become the more necessary in consequence of the abandonment of Micanopy, by order of Colonel Crane, without my knowledge or approbation. I deem the measure as unnecessary as it was injudicious, and it will be attended with the worst consequences to the frontier, unless I can give it timely relief. This is not the only evil which will result. Micanopy was the advanced post; it is situated within 35 or 40 miles of the principal Indian settlements, and I had ordered Colonel Crane to employ the whole wagon train in placing supplies there for the army, while acting in that quarter. But the day after the

express set out with this order, I received official information of the abandonment. This will embarrass our movements in some degree, but I hope I shall be able to remedy the evil.

The depots which I propose establishing for the use of the army will be at the Suwanee Old-town, on the river of that name, and designated on the map of Florida as the Old Battle Ground; another on the Withlacoochie, at the shoals, about 20 miles from its mouth; one at Volusia, on the St. John's; and one at Tampa Bay. All of these are accessible by steamboats, and from them I propose to establish others in the interior, at such points as necessity or convenience may dictate, in the progress of the compaign.

I have ordered from Charleston 75,000 rations, and 30 days' allowance of forage for 2,000 horses. These supplies will be carried to Jacksonville, on the St. John's river, where they will await my orders to be carried in steamboats to Volusia. Much of the provisions I have had brought to St. Mark's, to be shipped to Suwanee Old-town, and the Withlacoochie, has proved to be damaged, and has been condemned. I shall, however, have 100,000 rations of bread at the Old-town in a few days, 20,000 rations of pork and bacon, and 300 head of beef cattle. I have ordered 50,000 small rations, and 50,000 rations of pork and bacon, from New Orleans, which will arrive during the present month. The distance from the Suwanee Old-town, by land, to the depot which will be established on the Withlacoochie, is about 40 miles, and by water about 70 miles. I have not yet been enabled to raise a sufficient force to advance and establish a depot at the Withlacoochie; but, from either St. Mark's or Suwanee Old-town, supplies can be carried with great facility whenever we have a force ready to receive and protect them at that place. I have as yet ordered no supplies to Tampa Bay, because the plan which I have intended to pursue would not require them to be there for some time, and they can be received from New Orleans in a few weeks, when wanted. The depots at Volusia and on the Withlacoochie will not be more than 50 or 60 miles from each other. The course of the Withlacoochie, and the principal Indian settlements, are between them. In this part of the country, the army will meet with the greatest resistance, and be longest employed. But we shall be at no time, perhaps, more than 25 or 30 miles from one or the other of our principal depots, and we can establish others whenever required. With regard to transportation, I had intended to use nothing but pack-horses, when in pursuit of the enemy. There is a train of about 40 wagons attached to the regular force at Garey's Ferry, which I have thought would be sufficient to transport supplies to the posts which we may establish in the interior. I have not yet been enabled to purchase the number of pack-horses which will be required; but I hope, with those which I learn you will send with the Tennesseans, we shall have enough. There are about 120 good horses and mules at Tampa Bay, but they will be of no service until the army penetrates to that neighborhood. With regard to the mode of operations, I propose, on the arrival of the Tennesseans and the friendly Indians, to march immediately to the Suwanee Old-town, then to cross the river, and, by a forced march, endeavor to surprise the enemy in the principal settlements, which are not more than 50 miles distant from that place. The approach from this point will be entirely unexpected; and, aided by good guides, which I shall have in readiness, there is every prospect in succeeding in capturing the women and children, and bringing the warriors to bat-

tle. While I am conducting this enterprise with the horsemen and friendly Indians, the infantry, should they be in sufficient force, will proceed in steamboats to the mouth of the Withlacoochie, which they will ascend in barges and such of the steamboats as can navigate the stream, and establish a depot at the foot of the shoals. Three large barges (all that could be procured) will be in readiness for this service. They will carry a large quantity of supplies and several hundred men at each trip, and, as the distance by the river will not exceed 20 miles, the depot can soon be established. The mounted force and friendly Indians, after routing the enemy in their settlements, can either retire on Volusia, the Suwanee Old-town, or the depot on the Withlacoochie, for supplies. After this, I propose to concentrate the foot and horsemen, to place an equal number on each side of the Withlacoochie, and to examine every hiding-place on both banks, until the enemy is completely subdued or routed in that quarter. Having accomplished this, it will be necessary to turn our attention to the south, as it is known that a number of Indians (supposed to be two or three hundred) are located in the neighborhood of Tampa Bay; and there are others south of that, in the neighborhood of Charlotte's harbor. The distance from the principal Indian settlements on the Withlacoochie, to Tampa Bay, is near 100 miles; the intermediate country, for the most part, is an open pine barren, in which there are no settlements, and where it is not probable the Indians will be found in force. The army should not be exhausted by a march across that district, until the enemy has been perfectly routed and subdued along from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico. I doubt not, General, that the conquest of the enemy will be greatly facilitated by dividing the army—one division of which to act on the Withlacoochie, and the other in the country near Tampa Bay and Charlotte's harbor. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest that you should proceed to Tampa Bay with the regular forces under your command, and the Washington and Alabama volunteers, with a part of the friendly Indians. If the Alabama volunteers are mounted, it will be necessary for them to go by land; but they could in a few days, with a part of the friendly Indians, form a junction with you. Should you approve of this plan, General, your forces might embark at Mobile, St. Joseph's, or St. Mark's. The steamboat "Watchman," now running from Pensacola to New Orleans, can be purchased for $40,000, or chartered for $450 per day. She is a fine sea-boat, and well calculated for the service. The boats sent me from your army are very inferior, and considered dangerous even on a straight coasting voyage. The "Watchman" would be serviceable in carrying troops and supplies from Tampa Bay to Charlotte's, or any other point on the coast where they might be required. If you think favorably of this plan, General, you will please order Major Clark to ship to Tampa Bay such a supply of provisions and forage as you may require. At the close of the campaign a large quantity of provisions will be necessary, as the Indians will have to be shipped from that place. At Tampa Bay you will be able to procure guides from the friendly Indians permitted by General Scott to remain there, under the claim of being *American seamen*. How far they are entitled to this character, you will be the better judge when you have seen them. I have no doubt they have constant intercourse with the hostile party, with whom they appear to preserve a neutrality. Through them you might communicate with Abraham and Jumper, and they may lead to their capture or surrender. I have yet formed no spy companies, nor have I any suitable materials for that service.

The country south of Charlotte's harbor is so completely intersected with bayons and lagoons that it can only be penetrated in boats; and as Commodore Dallas has orders to co-operate with me in conducting the war, I shall request him to employ a body of seamen and marines in that service. By this means, I hope to cut off such portions of the enemy as may find their way to the everglades. One of the first measures I adopted, on entering upon the duties of my present station, was to request Commodore Dallas to guard the coast with cruisers in such a manner as to prevent all intercourse between the Indians and foreign traders. I have reason to fear, however, that my request has been very imperfectly complied with. I have since addressed the Secretary of War on the subject, who, instead of acting with the promptness and energy which the importance of the case required, refers me back again to Commodore Dallas, and suggests that I may employ one of the crazy steamboats of the Government on this service, while the whole West India squadron is lying at anchor in the bay of Pensacola.

I am, dear General, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commander-in-chief.

Major General THOS. S. JESUP,
Commanding army of the South.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 14, 1836.

SIR: I am advised by the War Department that you have been ordered by the proper authority to co-operate with me in conducting the war against the Seminole Indians. The brigade of Tennessee volunteers, and the troops from Middle and West Florida, will march from this place on the 19th, and the campaign will open on the 25th instant, in the northern part of the enemy's country. It is expected that another division of the army will be in operation in that part of the nation embracing the bay of Tampa and Charlotte's harbor, in a few weeks. As far as the army can march to the south, the country will be traversed; and it is hoped the enemy will be routed or destroyed. But there is a district, commencing a short distance south of Cape Carnaveral on the eastern, and Charlotte's harbor on the western margin of the peninsula, which can only be penetrated in boats. The water on the everglades, so far as I have been able to collect information, varies from two to six feet in depth. Within this region it is represented there are many islands, to which the Indians resort in canoes, and on some of which they have permanent settlements. It is reported to me that there are two or three hundred of them assembled on New river, and on the keys along the coast. The number may be exaggerated; but the burning of the light-house at Cape Florida, and other recent discoveries, render it certain that the enemy is to be found in that quarter in some force. I would respectfully suggest that the most effective co-operation you can give to the land forces in the prosecution of the war will be, by sending an expedition in boats to act in that part of the peninsula. The very limited information I possess on the subject does not enable me to suggest the kind of boats which may be required for this service. It is most probable, however, that those of the lightest draught would be best adapted, though many

of the bayous and inlets are said to be deep enough to receive boats of the largest size. I have no information which will enable me to suggest the number of men and boats which should be employed in this service. On this subject, as well as the time when the expedition might proceed with safety, your own intelligence and that of the naval officers will best determine. The region to be explored being almost entirely unknown, many unforeseen obstacles may be anticipated in the progress of the expedition. At Key West and Indian Key the best guides can be obtained to lead to the present location of the Indians.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Commodore ALEXANDER J. DALLAS,
Commanding the West India squadron, Pensacola.

HEADQUARTERS, SAN PEDRO,
September 22, 1836.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I arrived here this morning with the Tennessee brigade. I expect to arrive at the old battle-ground on the Suwanee [on the 24th.]

I shall be joined there by a small number of Florida volunteers, and shall march immediately in pursuit of the enemy. I hope to surprise them; but I am apprehensive that they have heard of the approach of the Tennesseeans through the Creeks that have passed down to unite with them. This opinion is supported by the fact, that, within the last ten days, the Indians have disappeared along the whole line of frontier. I hope, however, we shall find them before the 5th day of October, and have no doubt we shall give a good account of them. There is but little sickness among the Tennesseans; they are in fine spirits, and will do honor to the State.

I enclose you a copy of a letter from Major Pierce of the artillery, which, I regret to say, presents a most unfavorable account of the situation of the regular troops. The absence of officers from their posts is a serious evil, and one of which I complained to the Secretary of War immediately after assuming command of the army in Florida. Soon after, I received a letter from the Adjutant General of the United States army, in which he says the complaint is universal, and that he has done every thing in his power to produce a remedy of the evil; but that the Secretary of War considers the superintending of railroads and other public works, in which many of the officers are engaged, as paramount duties, and that those officers cannot be ordered to join their respective corps. I assure you, sir, that if officers are not compelled to join their commands in Florida, the regular force will be of little service to me. Major Pierce reports to me that there is no ordnance officer either at Charleston or Savannah, and we have none in the Territory. The ordnance stores sent me from the different arsenals reflect no credit on that department. Many of the musket cartridges are made with cannon powder and a single ball, and it frequently occurs that they are damaged, and entirely unfit for service.

I am, dear General, very sincerely yours,

R. K. CALL.

General JACKSON,
President of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS, SAN PEDRO,
September 22, 1836.

SIR: I am thus far on my march, and expect to arrive at Suwanee Old-town the day after to-morrow.

I met at this place an express from the east, bringing me letters from Major Pierce of the artillery, copies of which are enclosed, and to which I must beg your earnest attention. The want of officers to perform duty with their respective corps is an evil most seriously experienced in Florida. I had the honor to bring this subject to your attention at an early day after I assumed command of the army in Florida, and had hoped ere this that every officer would have been at his post. But you will perceive, from the report of Major Pierce, how much the service must suffer by the absence of so many officers.

I hope, sir, that the most prompt measures will be adopted to compel every officer to repair to his post without delay.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding the army in Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Copy of document referred to in General Call's letter of 22d September, 1836.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT HEILEMAN,
Garey's Ferry, September 13, 1836.

SIR: I cannot permit the express to leave this, without stating to you the miserable, deplorable situation of the regular troops in this Territory, as regards their efficient action in the field. There are eleven companies of artillery, the whole presenting a fighting force of only 110 men, and, when we are entitled to fifty-five officers, we have only six for company duty. How can it be expected that companies of troops can be kept up for efficient action without officers? Where are the company officers of the army? Where are the officers directed in "orders No. 43," from headquarters of the army, to join their commands? none of whom have obeyed the order. There are eight companies here without an officer for duty. Still the army is full of officers, and we have, I am informed, fifty extra officers from West Point, for whom there is no room in the army. If ever there was a time, and a service, where and when our officers were required with their companies, it is now and here. There is no ordnance officer here, no officer of the Subsistence Department, not a single quartermaster, and but one assistant quartermaster. I earnestly request you to have the proper quota of officers ordered here, and the proper staff officers, to perform their appropriate duties.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

B. K. PIERCE,
Major commanding.

General CALL,
Commanding in chief.

A true copy: THOMAS RANDALL,
Adjutant General of the Florida army.

Document referred to in General Call's letter of 22d September, 1836.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT HEILEMAN,
Garey's Ferry, September 13, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your two communications of the 6th instant. I am gratified at the expression of your approbation of my conduct, and that of the officers under my command, in the battle of Fort-Drane. I enclose a copy of my detailed report to Colonel Crane.

I had already anticipated your wishes in supplying Newnansville. I repaired to the place, in person, on the 5th instant, and supplied Colonel Warren with every thing he required—a reinforcement of regular troops, ten thousand muskets, cartridges, one howitzer, with one hundred and fifty rounds of fixed ammunition, and seven four-horse wagons, horses, and harness, and two months' provisions for his whole command and the distressed inhabitants. I send, to-morrow, a train of five wagons, with fifteen hundred rations and other property, to Newnansville, for the use of the troops at Fort Mills, ten miles above Newnansville.

I fear that no provisions corresponding with your intended movement have been made here. I have ordered my quartermaster at this place to send immediately to Charleston or Savannah, or both places, and procure one hundred horses and saddles, fifty new wagons, (most of those here being out of repair,) and 7,500 bushels of corn and oats; and my commissary of subsistence to procure, without delay, additional provisions for two thousand troops for two months. I hope, by the time these supplies shall have arrived, that I may hear from you again, giving me the data from which I can make the necessary requisitions, and procure such supplies as you require here. In the mean time, I shall keep our boats, the "John Stoney" and the "Essayons," actively employed in procuring such supplies of provisions as I think are necessary to prepare the troops for the field, and to supply the inhabitants, who amount to six or eight hundred. I have endeavored to make them as comfortable as possible, by ordering the issue of salt beef, rice, &c., and the assistant surgeon to attend upon their familes every morning. I enclose a memorandum, by which you will be able, at a glance, to see every thing, personal and material, of which you can avail yourself at this place.

I do not know what force Colonel Crane will send from St. Augustine. So soon as the troops from that place arrive, I will send you a report of my exact strength.

I am, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

B. K. PIERCE, *Major commanding.*

P. S.—I have also ordered one hundred pack-saddles.

B. K. P.

General R. K. CALL, *Commanding in chief.*

A true copy:

THOMAS RANDALL,
Adjutant and Inspector General of the army in Florida.

HEADQUARTERS, CHARLES FERRY,
Suwanee River, September 23, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the official report of Colonel John Warren, commanding the East Florida troops, of a very spirited and gallant attack made by him on a large party of the enemy on the 18th instant.

The conduct of Colonel Warren, and the officers and men under his command, entitles them to the attention and highest confidence of the Government.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding Army in Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

Report of Colonel Warren, referred to in Governor Call's letter of September 23, 1836.

HEADQUARTERS, 2D MILITARY DISTICT, E. FLORIDA,
Fort Gilleland, September 18, 1836.

SIR: Yesterday morning, the 17th instant, a party of from one to two hundred Indians came within a mile of this post, on the Picolata road, and captured a cart belonging to John Standly. Three white men and two negroes were fired on by a part of this body—fortunately without effect. The cart was set on fire. I immediately sallied out with thirty men to reconnoitre, while the troops were preparing to make a general sortie; a very heavy rain which came up at this time answered the double purpose of extinguishing the fire and rendering our arms useless. The cart with a load of corn was saved and brought in. I pursued on the trail some distance, and found that they had gone towards Colonel Sanchez's plantation; it being now nearly dark, and the rain still continuing, it was concluded to return and make an attack on them in the morning.

At one o'clock this morning, four men of tried valor were sent out to reconnoitre around the San Velasco hammock and the plantation of Colonel Sanchez; they returned at four o'clock, having made no discovery. Being satisfied that they were there, I resolved to go out; accordingly, at six o'clock I marched out with one hundred mounted men, being detachments from Captains Walker, Ward, and Garrison's companies, with twenty-five gentlemen under Captain Beekman, (having formerly belonged to his company, and volunteered their services for this special service,) Captain D. D. Tompkins, of company B, 1st regiment United States artillery, with a twenty-four-pound howitzer and twenty-five of his men. This command was arranged in three lines, as follows: Captain Walker, with his company, and Lieutenant Bruten, in command of the detachment from Captain Garrison's company, formed the right wing under my personal command; Captain Tompkins, with his command, formed the centre; and the volunteers under Captain Beekman, with Captain Ward's company, formed the left wing under Lieutenant Colonel Mills. On arriving within three-quarters of a mile of the hammock, the spies reported Indians in front; they immediately opened a sharp fire on the right wing and centre.

The Indians on the left, in considerable force, made an attempt to turn that flank, but were charged with spirit and success by Lieutenant Colonel Mills's command, and driven into a thick-wooded oak scrub; then, dismounting and charging on them, drove them through this into the border of the hammock, where the artillery played on them with considerable effect. After this, they retired to the right, and attempted to turn that wing; but were charged with success by Captain Walker and Lieutenant Bruten's command, and again driven within range of the artillery, which opened on them with great effect. They made several desperate attempts to maintain their position, and charged twice on the artillery, but were driven off at all points, and pursued for a mile and a half into a dense hammock, where they could not be pursued to advantage. The command advanced and took a position, and remained on it for two hours and a half, then returned in the same order of the advance, without seeing or hearing any thing more of them. The action lasted one hour and a half: one hour of which the firing was heavy on the whole line. From the ground which they occupied, their force is estimated at least at three hundred men. Several Indians were distinctly seen to fall before the fire of the artillery, particularly on the left; several persons report that they saw a mounted Indian (a chief, from his appearing to be giving orders) fall before the fire of the artillery. Adjutant Gilleland reports that he saw a large fellow mounted in front of the right, and, from a recollection of his person, thinks it was Jumper; he ordered a platoon fired at him, and several persons assert that he fell. From the many traces of blood discovered in passing over the ground after the enemy were routed, a great number must have been killed and wounded. We also discovered where they had killed five beeves and seven hogs, some of which were left by them, in their hurry, in the situation in which they were shot down. Lieutenant Colonel Mills sustained, in this action, the reputation he had previously acquired for bravery, coolness, and judgment: I beg leave to recommend him to your excellency's notice for his good conduct in this action, as well as the important services rendered by him since stationed at this post. Captains Beekman, Walker, and Ward, and Lieutenants Bruten and Hindly, behaved with great bravery. Lieutenant Bruten had his horse killed under him. Adjutant Gilleland particularly distinguished himself by his bravery and exertions on the right wing. Private Weyman, B company, 1st artillery, stationed at the howitzer, was severely wounded at the first fire, but refused to retire from his post until four rounds were fired, when he was compelled to retire from loss of blood. In fact, the whole command behaved well.

Below is a report of wounded. I regret to state that private Jerry Burnett is pronounced mortally wounded; the others appear to be in a fair way to recover. I should do injustice were I to close this report without mentioning, in terms of approbation, the prompt attention of Doctors Pelot and Turtelot to the wounded men: they promptly attended, during the action, to all.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, &c.,

JOHN WARREN,

Colonel, commanding 2d M. D., E. F.

His Excellency R. K. Call,

Governor, commanding in chief.

Return of wounded in the action of San Velasco, on the 18th September, 1836.

B company, 1st artillery—Private Weyman.

Florida militia—Sergeant Rowell, privates Pawals, Jerry Burnett (twice,) Jas. Greger, Samuel Russell, Jesse Long.

One horse killed, and five wounded.

L. GILLELAND, *Adjutant.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DRANE, *October* 10, 1836.

SIR: My letter of the 18th ultimo [from Tallahassee] informed you of my march from that place.

On the 1st inst., when within twelve miles of this place, we surprised a small party of Indians, four of whom we killed, but the others escaped on horseback; and although we made a forced march, with the hope of surprising the camp at this place, the alarm was communicated, and on our arrival we found that the Indians (supposed to be three hundred in number) had fled with great precipitation, leaving a large number of cattle in pens, and abandoning all their cooking utensils, and other articles. But for this circumstance, we should have surprised, and perhaps destroyed, Powell and his band.

The country has now been completely scouted, and relieved from the enemy, as far south as the Withlacoochie.

Major Pierce, to whose active exertions I am greatly indebted, united with me last night with a force of 200 regulars, and bringing seven days' rations for the whole army; with this, we shall march to-day for the Withlacoochie. Our force will be about 1,350. We hope soon to meet the enemy. So far, our advanced parties have killed eleven Indians, without loss on our part.

With our present supply of provisions, we hope to be able to encounter the enemy in his stronghold on the Withlacoochie; after which, our depots on the Volusia, and at the mouth of the same river, will afford us the means of replenishing our supplies.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,

Commanding army of Florida.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DRANE, *October* 19, 1836.

SIR: I had the honor, on the 10th inst., to inform you of my contemplated march to the Withlacoochie.

On the evening before my arrival, Colonel Randall, the adjutant and inspector general, was ordered, with Major Upshan, of the Tennessee brigade, to advance with the spies under command of Captains Lauderdale and Wilson, and the front guard under command of Colonel Trousdale, and select an encampment about four miles from the river. In the performance of this duty, they surprised a party of the enemy, killed ten warriors, and captured eleven women and children. But five of the warriors escaped, and

several of them were traced for some distance by the blood. We learned from the prisoners that the stronghold of the enemy was immediately on the opposite side of the river, and not more than four miles distant; and that one of the principal negro-towns was about three miles distant, situated between the Withlacoochie and a stream flowing into it from a large lake. The next morning I attempted to cross the river, but found it swollen by the heavy rains, and out of its banks. The enemy was in possession of the opposite side, and gave us a volley as soon as we appeared, but without effect. Two hundred good horsemen, under the command of Major Gordon, were ordered to dismount and take the bank of the river; this was done with great gallantry by all the officers and men engaged, and a partial fire ensued, which continued for some time, when, ascertaining the impracticability of swimming our horses, under the fire of the enemy, where the river was near two hundred yards wide, I caused the detachment to retire. In this fire Major Gordon was slightly wounded in the breast, and two of the privates were wounded, but not dangerously. The loss of the enemy was not ascertained, but supposed to be much greater than ours. On the same day, Lieutenant Colonel Gill, of the Tennessee brigade, was despatched to attack the negro-town, above described. He was met at the stream, which constitutes the principal barrier of defence, by a body of negroes and Indians, who disputed his passage with great obstinacy for one hour and a half, when the enemy was driven from his position, as it is believed, with considerable loss; several were seen to fall, and one in particular, who was seen to fall from a tree. Our loss was three killed—our faithful Indian guide Billy, and privates McKinley and Daniel H. West, of the Tennessee brigade, and eight wounded; but, I am happy to say, none of them dangerously.

The stock of our provisions being nearly exhausted, we were compelled, the next day, to march to our supplies, having every confidence that the depot at the mouth of the Withlacoochie had been established, from which we were not more than thirty miles distant. We marched to that place for relief, but we were unable to penetrate the country to the mouth of the river; and on our arrival at the lowest practicable point, not hearing any thing of the party ordered to establish the depot, I was compelled, most reluctantly, to fall back on this place. But for this disappointment, I am confident the war might have been closed in ten days. As I had expected, Colonel Lane's regiment was operating near me on the river, and has this morning united with me. On his arrival at Tampa Bay, he had a skirmish with the enemy within a few miles of the fort, in which he defeated and drove them at all points. The loss of the enemy was not ascertained; that of Colonel Lane was two regular soldiers wounded. On his march to the Withlacoochie, he again encountered the enemy in the lakes and swamps of the river. In his approach, the men were sometimes up to the shoulders in water, and were compelled to carry the ammunition on their bayonets.

With all these disadvantages he continued to advance, and routed the enemy from his strong position. On this occasion he had one of his warriors wounded; what effect was produced on the enemy was not ascertained, as they fled as soon as the barrier was passed. I have ordered the mounted men to fall back on Black creek, to forage the horses, which have been without grain for more than twenty days. I shall remain here with Colonel Lane's command; and while our horses are recruiting, will have a

large quantity of provisions despatched here, and from this shall advance a post within cannon-shot of the enemy, on the Withlacoochie. This is a place of great strength, from the natural barrier it presents to every approach, and where, I learn from the prisoners, the women and children were concealed during the last winter and spring. I have despatched an officer to ascertain the situation of the depot at the mouth of the Withlacoochie, to enable me to open a communication by land or water. I hope in ten days to be able to take the field again, and that the war will be closed in a short time.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,

General, commanding the army of Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DRANE,

October 22, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of the official report of Lieutenant Colonel Brown, of the Creek volunteers, giving an account of the march of that regiment from Tampa Bay to this place, where they united with me on the 19th instant.

With the most painful regret, I have to inform you that, within a very few hours after the arrival of this regiment, its gallant commander, Colonel Lane, in a paroxysm of insanity produced by a fever of the brain, occasioned by excessive fatigue and anxiety on the march, committed suicide by introducing the point of his sword above the right eye, and forcing it almost through his head.

By this melancholy occurrence, the army has been deprived of one of its most valuable and efficient officers, and the country has sustained a severe loss. I am happy, however, to add, that, though he was highly esteemed by the troops under his command, they have become reconciled to his loss, and evince every disposition to prosecute the war with vigor and zeal, under any other officer who may be designated to command them.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,

General, commanding the army of Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War.

Document referred to in Governor Call's letter of October 22, 1836, *addressed to the Secretary of War.*

FORT DRANE, *October* 22, 1836.

GOVERNOR: The melancholy event which occurred here on the 19th causes the duty to devolve on me of reporting to you the movements of the Creek regiment of volunteers, since its departure from Tampa Bay. We left our camp near Fort Brooke, and crossed the Hillsborough river on Monday the 10th instant, and encamped about one mile from the fort. On

Tuesday we marched 18, on Wednesday 19, and on Thursday 20 miles, without any thing of interest having occurred. On Friday, the 14th, we started at seven o'clock, and, having marched three or four miles, one of our scouts reported a hostile Indian on our right flank; immediate pursuit ensued; but, being mounted, he evaded us. On arriving at the place where he disappeared, we discovered, as far as the eye could reach, extensive lakes, on which were many and heavily timbered islands, connected together in some instances by extensive marshes containing a heavy growth of grass. Our Indians having reported a fresh trail, and that a village was seen in the vicinity, Colonel Lane called a halt, and made preparations for a scout. We accordingly left our horses and baggage, and struck off in a northeast direction; we soon found a small deserted village. Proceeding onward towards the south, we passed over some fine hammocks, and came to a ford of some two hundred yards: our troops crossed it, partly by swimming and partly by wading, carrying their ammunition on the points of their bayonets. Having reached the opposite side, we found extensive cornfields, and a few cattle and ponies; here was also a small village. Pursuing the trail, we came to an extensive marsh, a mile at least in length; our Indians leading the way, we plunged in. The mud and water being from four to six feet deep, our horses soon became exhausted, and all very soon had to be abandoned. We then pursued our course on foot, the water at times up to our necks, and bottom so soft as to make it almost impossible to keep our heads above water; we at length safely attained the shore, having passed a ford such as has seldom or never been attempted by white troops. We found ourselves on a beautiful fertile island, of several miles in extent, with a trail running south, which we pursued about a mile, and arrived at an extensive village, which had evidently been but recently abandoned: here we found corn, cattle, hogs, many domestic utensils, and several scalps of white men. Pursuing our course more westerly for half a mile, we came to another large village, where we found the same: I presume the two villages must have contained about 150 lodges. From there we followed the trail about half a mile to a small declivity, at the bottom of which was a small pond, and on the side of which was a low scrub which extended to the left about half a mile, and on the right of which was a thick hammock: our van was here saluted by the enemy, which was promptly returned. We immediately pushed on, and a smart skirmish of a half hour's duration ensued, when the enemy gave way and retired into the hammock, the scrub being so very thick as to be impenetrable. We pursued for a mile or more, both parties keeping up a running fight, when we came to an extensive open field. We pursued to the opposite side of this, when the enemy scattered in another thick hammock, and we gave up the pursuit; having, in the whole skirmish, had but one man wounded. It is but an act of justice to say that every man did his duty; and, if I have any blame to find with the officers of the regiment, it is for their too great eagerness to push forward and get in immediate contact with the enemy.

The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, nor the number engaged, in consequence of the well known fact, that they immediately carry their killed and wounded off the field, and that the scrub in which the principal skirmish took place was so very thick that but few could be seen at a time. I should say, however, that there were 30 or 40 of them, and several were doubtless killed and wounded, from the heavy fire poured into the scrub. On our return, our Indians killed some 100 cattle, and probably as many

hogs, and drove to camp about 200 more of the former. We returned by another trail in a northwest direction, and, having swam about 100 yards to the main land, reached camp about sunset. Our Indians during the night brought in more cattle, so that we had in all about 400 head. We marched the next day about 12 miles, having passed on our right a continued succession of extensive lakes and swamps. On Sunday, the 16th, we reached the Withlacoochie, about 10 o'clock, and made immediate preparations for crossing, which we performed by 8 o'clock in the evening, by means of a small canoe and some very small rafts made by the Indians. We encamped for the night just without the walls of Fort Izard; the next morning, pursuing our march, we struck a large trail leading to the southwest—this we followed for seven miles, and encamped. During the evening your detachment arrived. The next morning took up our line of march for this place, and marched 22 miles and encamped, and arrived here the next morning at half past 9 o'clock.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your most obedient servant,

HARVEY BROWNE,
Lieut. Col. commanding Creek volunteers.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Commander-in-chief.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DRANE, *October* 29, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose to you two general orders, providing for the appointment of the officers of the regiment of Creek volunteers, subject, however, to your approval.

Those announced in the order of the 28th instant had previously, with one exception, received the sanction of Colonel Lane and General Jesup, and were only confirmed by me, but with entire approbation.

Those announced in the order of the 29th are officers of well known and approved merit. I feel the utmost confidence that they will all do justice to the trust reposed in them, and respectfully recommend them all to your favorable consideration and approval.

I shall soon have the honor to write to you more fully of my movements, which shall be rapid and consecutive, from this point.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding army of Florida.

The PRESIDENT *of the United States, Washington.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DRANE, *November* 10, 1836.

SIR: The army will move this day in force, in pursuit of the enemy on the Withlacoochie. From the best information received, I have reason to believe that he will await our approach, and once again dispute the passage of the river.

With the supplies now collected, and with the force under my command, there can be no doubt of his speedy overthrow and dispersion; and, aided as I shall be by a large Indian force of Creek volunteers, his escape without great loss is almost impossible. It is only to be feared that he may have taken alarm at our preparations, and, by dispersing, render his defeat a task

of greater time and labor. I incline, however, to the belief that his former success on the Withlacoochie, and the natural strength of the position, will induce him to risk another combat on that ground.

General Read has already penetrated in a steamboat 12 miles above Fort Clinch, (formerly Camp Graham, at a point about 20 miles from the mouth of the river,) and is now fitting out a similar expedition, in the confident expectation of reaching a point opposite to the Cove, and where the army will be operating.

From General Jesup I have no later advices than to the 23d ultimo, when he was preparing to transport the marines and Alabama volunteers to Tampa Bay, from which he would immediately march to co-operate with me on the Withlacoochie.

To meet the exigencies of the army, to keep open the communication between the Withlacoochie and the St. John's, and to enable the dispersed inhabitants of Alachua to return to collect their cattle and property, I have re established this post, where will be kept a small deposite of military supplies.

The delay in the operations of the army has been thus far unavoidable, from the unexpected delay in the establishment of the depot of the Withlacoochie. We shall now advance with adequate supplies for our present expedition, and with the means of replenishing them from several points.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,

General, commanding in chief in Florida.

The Hon. the SECRETARY OF WAR.

TALLAHASSEE, *November* 18, 1836.

SIR: I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of November. Anticipating your authority to draw arms from the public arsenals, I sent to Mount Vernon, Alabama, and have now on their way to this place 1,000 muskets and two six-pounders, with a sufficient supply of arms and ammunition. I have also received 700 stand of arms from Tampa Bay. This will enable me to arm such troops as may come to our relief, as well as those of the Territory; and I hope we shall be able to defend ourselves. The distance between us and the Creeks is but inconsiderable, and we are separated by a very sparse population. I am apprehensive that, when pressed by the troops of Alabama and Georgia, they will retreat to the peninsula of Florida; in which event, they will desolate a part of this country. I am, however, adopting the most active measures of defence, and hope to be ready to receive them. The bands of the enemy which infested this part of the country have been driven back, and they have left it at present undisturbed. I have no doubt they will pay us a visit again in a short time, but I shall then be prepared for them. The steamboat I mentioned in my last will sail on to-morrow to relieve the garrison at Black creek and the Withlacoochie. Agreeably to your request, I shall immediately open a correspondence with General Scott on the subject of our defence. My knowledge of the country will perhaps enable me to be of service.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS, VOLUSIA, *November* 27, 1836.

SIR: The army under my command arrived at this place on yesterday, and I have the honor to report the result of its operation against the enemy since the 10th instant, the day on which I informed you I should march in pursuit.

On the morning of the 13th we arrived at the Withlacoochie, and proceeded immediately to cross the river and pass into the Cove, the former stronghold of the enemy. This was effected with great difficulty, although no enemy appeared to oppose our passage, and the water had fallen more than four feet since our former visit: four men were drowned in crossing. We found the river 220 yards wide, in some places swimming, and in all others deep fording from bank to bank. The regular troops, with the friendly Indians and a detachment of Florida volunteers, after crossing, made a thorough examination of the Cove, and found it entirely abandoned by the enemy.

I crossed myself with this division of the army, and encamped in the Cove that night. In the mean time, General Armstrong had been ordered, with the Tennessee brigade, to march upon the north side of the river, and force a passage across the stream where our troops had met with such obstinate resistance on the 13th of October. On approaching the stream he found no enemy to resist his passage, but it was in part still swimming and difficult to cross. The passage was effected, and the 2d regiment, under the command of Colonel Trousdale, advanced to attack the Indian and negro settlements in that vicinity. They found all the towns abandoned, and discovered large trails of the enemy leading to the east and northeast. A negro, captured in one of the houses, reported that they had fled to the Wahoo swamp. The Tennesseans burnt three large towns, which were built of hewn logs, and appeared to have been constructed during the last spring and summer. They discovered very little appearance of cultivation, and, from the report of the captured negro, the enemy have nothing to subsist on except beef.

The brigade returned that night to the camp on the river, where all the baggage of the army had been left under a strong guard. Finding that the enemy had abandoned his stronghold, (which appeared better defended by nature than any place I have ever seen,) and discovering that all the trails from the Cove across the river lead to the north side, I determined to recross the river myself, and with the Tennessee brigade, a small detachment of regular troops, and Florida militia, to pursue to whatever point he might have retreated; while Colonel Pierce, with the troops which had crossed into the Cove, was ordered to march up on the south side of the river, and to form a junction with me near Dade's battle-ground.

The two divisions of the army marched on the 16th instant on the routes assigned them. On the 17th, about noon, a large encampment of the enemy was discovered on our right flank, and not more than four hundred yards from our line of march. The 1st regiment of Tennessee volunteers, under Colonel Bradford, being on that flank, General Armstrong was ordered to advance with it and attack the enemy. The Indians had taken the alarm, and retreated into the edge of a dense swamp, where they had deposited such of their baggage as they had time to remove, and where they awaited our approach. The Tennesseans, under their gallant leader, advanced with great intrepidity within gunshot of the position held by the enemy, when they dismounted under his fire, and, by one of the most spirit-

ed charges that ever was made, in a few minutes possessed themselves of the hammock and drove the enemy from his ground. Our troops pursued, sometimes waist-deep in mud and water. The pursuit was continued as long as an enemy could be discovered.

The spy companies, under the command of Major Lauderdale, accompanied by Major Barrow, aid de-camp of General Armstrong, had been detached in the morning in pursuit of a party of Indians, supposed to be near our encampment of the preceding night. They returned just before the close of the action, and, with the companies of Captains Finley and Bledsoe, of the 2d regiment, were ordered to take a position on the left, to cut off the retreat of the enemy should he attempt to pass in that quarter; but the enemy fled precipitately from the field, being completely routed, even in the swamp which he had selected for the battle-ground, leaving all his baggage and horses.

The loss of the enemy was twenty found dead on the field, and no doubt is entertained that many others were killed, who were not discovered in the slight examination made in passing over the field. In wounded the enemy must have suffered severely, as twenty-one distinct trails of blood were discovered through the hammock into which they retreated. Our loss was one killed, (private Wm. A. Beard, of Captain McMahon's company,) and Asa Hays, of the same company, wounded.

Of Captain Crouch's company, there were wounded, Wm. Morton mortally; Sherwood Green and Wm. Newcomb severely, but not dangerously.

Of Captain Tipps's company, Henderson Hunt, wounded.

Of Captain Fletcher's company, Ensign R. A. McLane and Granger Wright, slightly.

Of Captain Baber's company, R. B. King.

Of Captain Gibson's company, Bishop Hubold. Total killed and wounded, 11.

I cannot speak too highly of the bravery and good conduct of all the officers and men engaged in this affair. Gen. Armstrong and all the members of his staff, and General Read, of Florida, who acted as volunteer aid-de-camp on the occasion, were distinguished for their courage and activity in the field. Colonel Bradford, Lieutenant Colonel Cahal, and Adjutant Bradley most gallantly led the charge into the hammock, and were as gallantly followed by the brave men they commanded. Major Goff was also distinguished for his activity and bravery.

With regard to the company officers, where all behaved with so much spirit and zeal, and each was emulous to surpass the other in feats of bravery, it is a difficult matter to discriminate between them. It will be sufficient, therefore, to mention the names of those who were engaged in the action: these were Captains McMahon, Crouch, Tipps, Frierson, Fletcher, Roberts, and Jones, and Lieutenants Lipscomb and Levy, commanding companies in the absence (through sickness) of their captains, and Lieutenant Garland, commanding Captain Gibson's company, who was then absent on duty.

I cannot pay a higher or more just compliment to the troops engaged in this action, than to say that every officer and soldier fully sustained the high character of Tennessee for enterprise and valor. After the close of the action, which lasted about thirty minutes, the army marched about four miles in the direction of Dade's battle-ground, where we halted for the

night, and made the necessary arrangements to move forward and attack the enemy, if to be found, in the Wahoo swamp.

On the morning of the 18th, the baggage-train was placed in a compact form, under the protection of two pieces of artillery and a detachment of regular troops, commanded by Captain Tompkins, and a strong guard of Tennesseans and Florida militia. At an early hour I marched at the head of five hundred and fifty Tennessee troops, and about 11 o'clock, after crossing two brooks, skirted with dense hammocks, which formed a part of the Wahoo swamp, we entered a piece of open ground, which brought us in view of a town which had been just abandoned and set fire to by the enemy. They were so closely pursued, that several of them were seen as they entered the hammock, where, they gave us to understand, they were prepared to receive us.

The line of battle was immediately formed: the troops on foot prepared to enter the hammock, while a detachment of horse on each flank remained in the open ground to act as occasion might require. While the men ordered to advance were yet in the open ground, and had approached within gunshot of the hammock, the enemy opened a deadly fire upon them. A charge was ordered, and was most gallantly made; our troops entered the hammock, and in a few moments the whole line became engaged. It was soon discovered that the enemy outflanked us on the right and left, and at one time they showed themselves in force in our rear. Their force could not have been less than from 600 to 700.

A part of the horsemen were ordered to dismount and charge on the right and left flanks, while others were sent to disperse the Indians in the open ground, who were firing in the rear at long gunshot distance. These orders were promptly obeyed: Captain Fletcher, at the head of eighteen mounted men, charged and most gallantly dispersed about fifty warriors in open ground. Colonel Bradford led the charge on the right, and Lieutenant Colonel Cahal on the left; Colonel Trousdale and Lieutenant Colonel Guild led the centre; and a more gallant and intrepid charge was never made on any occasion. In thirty minutes the enemy was driven at all points, and fled precipitately from the field. Our troops continued the pursuit as long as the enemy could be seen; after which, they returned in good order to the open ground, bringing their dead and wounded with them.

The loss of the enemy, on this occasion, must have been very considerable. In passing over the field, twenty-five were found dead, and it is believed many others were carried off during the fight. Their wounded cannot be estimated.

Our loss was three killed, viz: Lieutenant Pinkney Green; Bumnock Riggs, of Captain Bledsoe's company; and Andrew Lynch, of Captain Battle's company.

The wounded were, R. K. Anderson and George W. Mitchell, of Captain Hamilton's company; Lewis Waggoner, of Captain Crouch's company; James Gay and John Mitchell, of Captain Tipps's company; William C. File, of Captain Baber's company; Lieutenant R. A. Alexander, of Captain Lauderdale's company; John Warner and George Tucker, of Captain Campbell's company; William Robinson, of Captain Finley's company; Thomas Cooper, of Captain Battle's company; and Worthy Walker, of Captain Henry's company.

Total, killed and wounded, 15.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the troops on this occasion. They contended with a superior force; and not an instance occurred, through the day, in which any officer failed to do his duty. General Armstrong and every member of his staff were active and energetic, and displayed great bravery during the action. Captain Johnson, of the Indian regiment, and Sergeant Harris, of the Florida militia, (both there without command,) were distinguished for their bravery, and acted as volunteers with the spy companies. The following is the list of officers of the Tennessee brigade engaged in the action. (See list appended.) So soon as the necessary arrangements could be made for carrying our killed and wounded, we commenced our return march to camp, which we reached about nine o'clock at night.

The next day (the 19th) being the day appointed for Colonel Pierce to unite with me, I marched down the road to Dade's battle-ground, still near the enemy, where I hoped to meet with his division that night, and to enter the swamp the next day in full force.

He did not reach that point until the following day at 12, M. The swamp was about five miles distant, and it was then too late to march and enter it with the hope of doing any thing that day. The army had already been on half rations for several days, but I resolved to spend one day more in searching the swamp for the enemy; accordingly, on the morning of the 20th instant, after leaving our baggage under a strong detachment, commanded by the gallant Colonel Bradford, the army moved forward again to the swamp. It was soon discovered that the enemy was on the edge of it, awaiting our approach.

The line of battle was immediately formed: the Tennessee troops on the right; the regulars and two companies of Florida militia, under the command of Colonel Pierce, formed the centre; and the regiment of friendly Indians formed the left. The horsemen constituted the reserve.

So soon as the line was formed, the Indians raised a yell, and opened a fire along the whole of the centre and right. A charge was ordered, and our troops entered the hammock without discharging a gun, although they received a heavy volley from the enemy as they advanced on the open ground. For a few moments, the fire continued heavy along the whole line, when the enemy gave way in every direction; they were pursued until the troops lost sight of them.

Some time was lost in finding the direction in which the main body of the enemy had retreated. It was at length discovered that they had passed to the left. The regular troops, with the mounted Florida volunteers, under command of Colonel Warren, and the friendly Indians, were ordered immediately in pursuit, while the Tennessee brigade moved on to support them. The regular troops, under Colonel Pierce, in their advance, encountered a morass, where the officers were compelled to abandon their horses, and the men were, at times, above their waists in mud and water; and were at least an hour advancing three-quarters of a mile. The 2d regiment of Tennessee volunteers, under Colonel Trousdale, encountered the same difficulty, and experienced the same delay.

In the mean time, Lieutenant Colonel Brown, with his usual enterprise, had discovered a trail to the left, avoiding the morass and passing over dry land, through a dense hammock. At the head of about one hundred and fifty friendly Indians, he pressed forward with great intrepidity, and soon found himself engaged with a large body of Indians, strongly posted in a cypress

swamp, on the opposite side of a deep and boggy stream. A severe conflict here occurred; and while the brave Major Moniac, one of the chiefs of the Creek regiment, was advancing to head a charge across the stream, he fell and sunk into the water. Our Indians continued to fight against the fearful odds with which they were engaged, until they were reinforced by a part of Captain Evans's and Lieutenant Myrick's companies of Florida militia, and the Florida mounted men, under command of Colonel Warren. These troops advanced at once to the attack with the van of the artillery, and poured a heavy fire on the enemy. Soon after, the remainder of the regular troops, under Colonel Pierce and Major Gardner, and the 2d regiment of Tennessee volunteers, under command of Colonel Trousdale, having passed the morass, arrived, and joined in the action. The firing continued heavy for some time, until the enemy was driven from his position and silenced, with the exception of a few guns which were occasionally fired. Having no guide who could give any account of the stream, the practicability of crossing it, even after the enemy had retired, being yet unascertained, (while the evening was far advanced,) it was deemed proper by the officers in command at the stream to return, after carrying off their dead and wounded. They were then ordered by me to the open ground in the rear, when the killed and wounded were collected. The army then returned to their camp, which they did not reach until about ten o'clock at night. The state of our supplies not permitting us to remain longer than that day, we spent the last hour we could spare in pursuit of the enemy.

The loss of the enemy on this occasion cannot be correctly estimated. Ten were found dead on the field where the fight commenced; and no doubt is entertained of their having sustained a severe loss at the creek, both from the immense volleys poured in upon them from our front and flank, and from their having abandoned a position so admirably calculated for defence. It is supposed they could not have lost less than fifty killed during the day.

Our loss in killed was the brave Major Moniac, a friendly chief, and two Creek Indians: total 3, of the Creek regiment. Of the regular troops, one lieutenant, one corporal, and two privates: total regulars, 5.

The following is the list of our wounded:

Captain Ross, of the marine corps, who commanded a company in the Creek regiment, had his thigh broken while bravely leading his command into action; Captain Maitland, of the artillery, also received a severe wound while leading his men to the charge; two sergeants, two corporals, and two privates of the regular troops were also wounded.

Of the Tennessee brigade, private Benjamin Cooper, of Wilson's company, was mortally wounded in the last affair. Joseph B. Duncan, of Roberts's company, Alexander Lyons, of Baber's company, and Robert Hays, of Campbell's company, were also wounded. Total regulars and Tennessee volunteers wounded, 16.

The conduct of all the officers and men engaged during the day was marked by the most deliberate courage; and that success was not entirely complete in every particular, was owing to the nature of the ground, and to the delay which was caused in passing the morass. Where all behaved so well, it is difficult to discriminate. I cannot, however, forbear to mention the names of Lieutenant Colonel H. Brown, Major Morriss,* Captains

* Note appended in pencil-marks.—We are happy to perceive that this officer is not among the killed, as stated in our Saturday's paper.

Ross, Maitland, Piercy, and Searle, and Lieutenant Lee, of the artillery, who sustained the first unequal combat with the enemy at the disputed passage.

These were followed and bravely sustained by Colonel Warren, Captain Evans, and Lieutenant Myrick, of the Florida militia, and by Major Gardner, Captains Tompkins and Porter, of the artillery, and the officers and men under their command. Indeed, no higher praise can be paid to Colonel Pierce, and the regular troops under his command, both officers and men, than to say that all behaved with their characteristic valor; and those who were the foremost in the action were precisely those whom circumstances and the nature of the ground favored in their advance.

The following is the list of the officers engaged in the above affairs:

The Tennesseans were led into action by Colonel Trousdale, Lieutenant Colonel Cahal, (commanding the 1st regiment in the absence of Colonel Bradford, left in command of the camp,) and Lieutenant Colonel Guild. These were all distinguished for their gallantry and good conduct during the day. Besides his active participation in the affair of driving the enemy from the hammock, Colonel Trousdale, with his regiment, joined in the attack upon the enemy at the disputed passage of the stream with his usual spirit and valor. For the names of the company-officers engaged in the affair of the 21st, I refer you to the enclosed list.

I should do injustice to my own feelings, as well as to the members of my staff, were I to overlook them on this occasion. It affords me pleasure to say that in every battle they displayed the most deliberate courage, and in every march they were prompt and zealous in the performance of their duty. Colonel Randall, the adjutant and inspector general of the army, had many arduous and important duties to perform, in which he always displayed great energy and decision, and, by his activity and intelligence, afforded me great service in the field. Colonel Fitzpatrick, as well as Colonels Braden, Downing, and Putnam, my aids de-camp, and General Read, of Florida, (who acted as my volunteer aid-de-camp on several important occasions,) are entitled to my warmest thanks, not only for their gallant conduct in the field, but for their zeal and activity on all occasions.

The army having been on half rations for several days—a privation to which they submitted with the greatest cheerfulness, from their anxiety to contend with the enemy as long as possible, there not having been left, for several days, a grain of corn even for the wagon and artillery horses; while the grass of the country at this season afforded no adequate support to them—on the morning of the 22d I felt myself compelled reluctantly to march to a depot for supplies; and accordingly took up my line of march for this place, which we reached on the morning of the fifth day. From the number of trails seen leading from the Wahoo swamp on the morning of the 22d, there is some reason to apprehend that the enemy abandoned that position on the night of the 21st, scattering into small parties to avoid pursuit.

Had the nature of our supplies enabled us to maintain our position a few days longer, the enemy would have been driven from all his hiding-places.

With the least possible delay, the troops under my command will be prepared for another expedition, and will take up the line of march in pursuit of the enemy.

I enclose you, herewith, a sketch of the country the scene of our late operations, the dotted lines on which will designate the routes pursued by the army. Much of the interior of this country yet remains unexplored, of which no white man has the least knowledge. We have penetrated the

Cove and Wahoo swamp at all known accessible points, and have facilitated to other expeditions the work of dislodging the enemy from this hitherto inaccessible fastness. No description can do justice to the difficulty of penetrating this region from any point. The map has been prepared by that intelligent officer and excellent draughtsman, Captain Searle, of the Creek regiment.

It is proper to add, in relation to the movement of the division under Colonel Pierce, detached from the Cove, that he completely fulfilled the objects of the expedition. After crossing to the south, out of the Cove, by a route hitherto unknown, in which the greatest difficulties were surmounted, and after exploring the country in his route, he met with no more important incident than routing and dispersing a small party of hostile Indians, who escaped into the swamp. He discovered no recent trails leading from the Cove to the south, nor any other practicable access to it on that side than the very difficult one over which he penetrated.

In noticing the good conduct of the troops under my command, I ought not to omit mentioning some of the friendly Indians, who have given signal instances of bravery in battle: amongst them, Paddy Carr, Tustunnuggy Ladgo, and John Hopony stand conspicuous.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
General commanding, &c.

To the Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington.

[Lists referred to in the foregoing letter.]

List of captains and officers of the Tennessee brigade commanding in the battle of the 18th of November.

1st regiment—Wilson's spy company.—Captains Fletcher, Jones, Crouch, Roberts, Lipscombe, Lewis Levy, Morriss, and Douthal.

2d regiment.—Captains Cants, Lauderdale, of spy company, Campbell, Finley, Battle, McCoin, Bledsoe, Grundy, Chandler, Henry, of Robertson, Lewis, of Nesbit, and Davis.

List of captains and officers of the Tennessee brigade commanding in the battle of the 21st of November.

1st regiment.—Captains Fletcher, Frierson, Tipps, Crouch, McMahon, Gibson, Lipscombe, and Lieutenant McLaurin.

2d regiment.—Captains Lauderdale, of spy company, Campbell, Finley, Bledsoe, McCoin, Battle, Chandler, Grundy, Henry, of Turner, Adjutant Nede, commanding Henry's company, of Robertson, and Lieutenant Hudson, commanding Nesbit's company.

HEADQUARTERS, VOLUSIA,
December 2, 1836.

SIR: Your letter of the 4th instant was delivered to me by Lieutenant Johnston, a few miles from this place, on my approach; and I regret exceedingly that my ill-health, and the many important official duties which

have claimed my attention, should have compelled me to delay my answer until the present time.

I shall surrender, most cheerfully, to General Jesup the command of the army, in which the President has been pleased to supersede me, and have given Lieutenant Johnston every facility in my power to find the camp of that officer. I must be permitted to say, that I regarded your letter as the most extraordinary document I ever read.

It informed me of a rumor which had reached Washington very unfavorable to my conduct and military character. It reminds me of the means, and supposed means, I possessed of achieving a victory over the enemy; of the unwillingness of the department to credit the rumor, but that it had been *substantially confirmed by various communications* received, &c., and further "*elucidated*" by the verbal statement of Lieutenant "*Mitchell*," late of my staff, &c.

You proceed to state that "*no definitive judgment has been formed as to the circumstances above referred to;*" and that, *although* "*no definitive judgment has been formed as to the occurrences above referred to,*" you are yet instructed by the President to pronounce on me what every one must conceive to be the deepest censure, and to supersede me in the command of the army. Thus inflicting the severest penalty and the highest disgrace, in the power of the President to visit upon me, were my guilt established by the most incontrovertible testimony. All this is done without waiting to receive my official report, which I am called on to make without delay.

Now, sir, should I be so fortunate as to show, by a plain statement of facts, which can be supported by the oaths of hundreds of honorable men, that injustice has been done me, can the injury be repaired? May I hope for that magnanimity which will acknowledge error, and redress wrong?

My official report of the incidents of the march to and from the Withlacoochie was made to the late Secretary of War, and forwarded from Fort Drane on the 19*th of October last.* It was made *while suffering under the most severe indisposition,* and does not do justice to many of the officers under my command, or to myself. But I did not feel culpable for any thing that occurred, and therefore made no defence of my conduct. Lest it should not have been received by the department, a copy is herewith enclosed. Allow me to offer a remark on the evidence on which I have been condemned. As to the "rumor," it is intangible, and I shall say nothing about it; nor are the communications, which you mention as having been received, entitled, in my estimation, to higher credit, as they must have been destitute of truth. For Lieutenant Mitchell, who seems to have "elucidated" the whole matter, and whom you seem to have considered as a member of my staff, sent on to Washington and Philadelphia by me, on business connected with the replenishing of my supplies, I must say, if he made such representations, he was truly unfortunate in communicating facts. For the want of an ordnance officer, so often complained of to the department by the officers in command in Florida, I appointed Mr. Mitchell to take charge of the ammunition, in the same order in which my staff was announced to the army. He marched with us from Suwanee Old-town, and lived in the family of General Armstrong, until a few days before our return from the Withlacoochie to Fort Drane, when he came into the mess with myself and staff. On our arrival at the latter place, he applied for permission to go to Black creek, which was readily granted.

He suggested that he might be of service in procuring and forwarding the clothing and blankets, which I intended to order the quartermaster at Black creek to purchase for the friendly Indians, as it had been represented by their commander that they were in great want of those articles.

At Black creek I understood he applied to one of my aids then at that place, for an order to proceed to Charleston and Philadelphia to make those purchases. This was done without my knowledge, and certainly very contrary to my intention, as I did not wish him to go farther than Black creek. He has forwarded no clothing for the Indians, nor has he made any report of his proceedings. I have to request that this officer may be ordered, without delay, to join his company at Fort Clinch, on the Withlacoochie. As to his having been sent by me to replenish my supplies, the statement is erroneous. The Indians were almost naked, and I felt it my duty to have them clothed, on the requisition of their commander.

I shall now proceed to answer the complaints or accusations which you were instructed by the President to prefer against me, in the order in which they are made. And, first, as it regards his "disappointment and *surprise*" that I should have commenced the execution of a campaign of so much importance, and so long meditated, without first taking effectual measures to secure the necessary supplies. When I formed my plan of campaign, which was submitted to the department, Micanopy, but ten miles distant from Fort Drane, was held as a military post, and was relied on as one of the depots from whence supplies could be drawn for the use of the army while engaged in that quarter. Tampa Bay was another depot already established; and I proposed another near the mouth of the Withlacoochie, and one at this place. So soon as I was advised of the time when the Tennesseans would leave their cantonment in Alabama for Florida, I sent an express to Colonel Crane, commanding the forces in East Florida, to employ the whole transport train at Black creek in carrying supplies to Micanopy. In a few days after this, I learned, with surprise and embarrassment, that Micanopy had been abandoned by that officer. This gave the enemy undisputed possession of the country for forty miles farther north. They were bravely met and fought on several occasions by Colonels Warren and Mills, of Florida, and Captain Tompkins of the United States artillery. But they were too numerous for our forces, and I had not the means of driving them back, and advancing other posts, until I entered the country with the Tennessee brigade. In pursuance of my plan of campaign, abundant supplies of every kind were deposited at Black creek, and steamboats were in readiness, with which provisions and forage could be conveyed to this place in twelve hours. Thus, on the eastern margin of the peninsula, I was as fully prepared as the nature of the country would admit of, and as any general could have been at the opening of a campaign.

On the western side of the peninsula I had only sufficient force to establish a depot at the Suwanee Old-town, where supplies were placed for the use of the army when advancing into the enemy's country. At St. Mark's ample stores of every kind were deposited ready to be conveyed to the Withlacoochie whenever the army should advance to war and protect them.

Before this, it was impossible, with the means which I possessed, to establish that depot.

On the 19th day of September I marched with the Tennessee brigade from Tallahassee for Suwanee Old-town, where we arrived on the 24th. Before I left Tallahassee, in addition to the supplies at the Old-town, a large

brig, loaded with an assorted cargo, had sailed from St. Mark's to the mouth of the Suwanee. Other vessels were known to be on their way from New Orleans with additional supplies, and the quartermaster was ordered to charter a still further number to carry the public stores from St. Mark's to the same destination. The steamboat Minerva, calculated, from her draught of water, to enter and ascend the Withlacoochie, was chartered on the 17th of September to take in a cargo of forage and ammunition from one of General Jesup's depots on the Chattahoochie, and proceed to the mouth of the Suwanee, where she was by appointment to be on the 24th of September. The steamboats sent me by the Government, under the command of naval officers, were already in the Suwanee river, where I found them on my arrival. One of those boats, the Izard, was ordered by Commodore Dallas to return to Pensacola; the other two required repairs, and their crews were prostrate by disease. I ordered the Izard to remain, and permitted the other two (neither of which could enter the Withlacoochie) to proceed to Pensacola for supplies and fresh crews, expecting them to return as soon as possible; but they have never yet returned to their station, nor am I informed in what manner they have been employed by Commodore Dallas. On the 29th day of September General Read, of Florida, then at Suwanee Old-town, was selected for his well-established intrepidity of character, his untiring perseverance, and his knowledge of the Withlacoochie, to take command of a detachment of Florida militia and a small detachment of regular troops daily expected from Key West to arrive at the mouth of the Suwanee, and with the steamboat Izard and two large barges, (which, of themselves, were capable of carrying 600 barrels of freight,) to proceed to the mouth of the Suwanee, where, it was supposed, he would find the steamboat Minerva and several other vessels with supplies, and proceed at once with them all to the mouth of the Withlacoochie, (only thirty-five miles distant,) and to ascend the river with the steamboats and barges, and establish a depot at Graham's camp, about fifteen or twenty miles above the mouth.

Thus prepared, on the same day, the 29th of September, the army marched, without a wagon-train, carrying ten days' supply of provisions on their riding and pack-horses, to attack the enemy at Fort Drane, which had been for some time abandoned by our troops. The night before, an express was sent to Major Pierce, at Black creek, advising him of my intended movements, and directing him to advance without delay with his forces and all the transport wagons with supplies for the army, relying on the large crops of corn known to have been made at General Clinch's and McIntosh's plantations for forage for our horses. On the 1st day of October the army arrived at Fort Drane, and but for the escape of an Indian from a party we surprised and destroyed, about ten miles off, who gave intelligence of our approach, the whole Mickasuky tribe would have been surprised, and perhaps destroyed. We were greatly disappointed in finding no corn at either the plantation of General Clinch or of McIntosh: though large crops were made, it had all been destroyed by the Indians and cattle, which had free access to the fields.

We, however, found an abundance of sugar-cane, on which our horses were fed, and on which they were greatly improved. The express sent to Major Pierce did not from some cause arrive at Black creek by three days as early as it should have done; but, expecting my orders to advance, his wagons were all loaded and in readiness; and in two hours after the arrival of the express, though it was late at night, his whole train was in motion,

and he joined me on the evening of the 8th of October. I reported to the department that he brought me seven days' rations for the whole army. This was according to the reports made to me at the time; but the estimate did not hold out, and many of the companies received but five days' rations. With this supply I resolved to follow the trail of the enemy, in order to find his stronghold, in preference to taking the roads made by our armies in former marches, and, as a further security against the necessity of being compelled to fall back for supplies in any contingency, I had ordered two steamboats and several schooners to be laden with storage and provisions, and to sail immediately up the St. John's river, and come to anchor in Lake George, there to await a signal from me to advance to Volusia, only six miles distant. These orders were promptly executed: the vessels ascended and took their stations, where they remained until they were ordered by an express boat to return to Black creek. The army marched on the evening of the 9th from Fort Drane; the trail of the enemy led us to his stronghold in the Cove of the Withlacoochie. We arrived at this point on the morning of the 13th; that day was spent in attempting to cross the river without success. The next morning, the 14th, the army having less than two days' rations to subsist on, it became necessary to march to one of the depots for relief. I found the Cove of the Withlacoochie so much lower down the river than I expected, and consequently so much farther from Volusia, that I deemed it impossible for the army, without great distress, to reach the latter place, as it would require a march of six or seven days. I called a council of war to advise with the officers, and, after hearing my views, they were adopted; and it was almost unanimously determined that we should march to the depot ordered to be established on the Withlacoochie. We accordingly took up the line of march for that place.

Major Goff, of the Tennessee brigade, was sent with two hundred men in advance, to ascertain the situation of the depot; if he should not find it, to fire signal guns with his whole command until he received a response from General Read. He advanced to Graham's camp, the place directed for the depot; he remained there during the night of the 15th; the signal guns were fired on the evening preceding and on that morning, without receiving a reply.

Despairing of finding the depot, or of hearing from General Read, the country being impassable by land to the mouth of the river, and having no boat to descend by water, he determined to return, and sent an express to meet and inform me of the result of his examination. On the 16th, the express met me about noon, ten or twelve miles from the point designated for the depot. The army was immediately halted. General Read had not been heard from since the 29th of September; the provisions of the army were almost entirely exhausted; relief must be had as soon as practicable, or extreme suffering was the inevitable consequence.

The army could not reach Graham's camp, on the Withlacoochie, that night. If we advanced farther, and spent two more days without finding relief, the consequences must have been fatal. In this trying situation something must be done, and done quickly. Afterafew moments' consultation with General Armstrong and Major Pierce, I resolved to march to Fort Drane, where it was certain we could get beef for the army and sugar-cane for the horses. In this we were not disappointed. We reached Fort Drane the night of the 17th; an express was sent to Black creek to forward supplies, which met the army and relieved its necessities. I trust that I

have abundantly shown that, from the state of preparation as early as the 29th of September, I had every reason to expect that the depot ordered to be established at Graham's camp, on the Withlacoochie, would be completed by the 16th of October at least.

Let us now examine the causes which are known positively to have led to this disappointment, and to my distressing embarrassments. Before the 5th day of October, General Read was at the mouth of the Withlacoochie with an abundant supply of every thing for the use of the army. He ordered the officer commanding the steamboat Izard to carefully examine the entrance into the mouth of the river; then to enter, and ascend to the point designated for the depot. In this attempt, the steamboat, unfortunately, through mistake or accident, was thrown across the channel, which being narrow, she grounded at the bow and stern at full tide; and, when the water fell, she broke in two, from the weight of her engine, and sunk. The destination of the steamboat Minerva having been changed by General Jesup, (certainly with no expectation that it would embarrass my movements in the smallest degree,) who ordered her, as I have been officially informed by her enterprising captain, to take at least one trip to the mouth of the Apalachicola, with the Creek warriors, before she took in a cargo on the Chattahoochie for the Withlacoochie, she was also ordered by Colonel Lang to make a second trip, in which she was greatly delayed by a fall of the Chattahoochie; and, instead of arriving on the 24th September, according to appointment, she did not make her appearance until the 22d day of October. In the mean time, General Read, with his usual energy and untiring perseverance, proceeded to fortify a large barge, which he loaded with supplies, and was in the act of passing the bar to ascend and establish the depot at all hazards, when the Minerva appeared in view.

On that very day, General Read, aided by that invaluable officer, Colonel Wood, a member of my staff, who had taken the temporary command of the Minerva for this expedition, succeeded in ascending the river and establishing the depot, where there has been an abundant supply of public stores ever since.

Now, sir, permit me to ask, is the accusation just, and can it be supported in truth, that I did commence "the execution of this important campaign without having first taken effectual measures to secure all needful supplies?" I answer that it is not; and the charge cannot be supported, as it is proven by the fact that the Minerva, on the first day of her arrival, succeeded in establishing the depot. That the steamboat Izard should have been lost, may be attributed alone to the arrangement of the Government in selecting naval officers to navigate steamboats in narrow channels and rivers, who have been instructed only in navigating ships on the ocean.

Had the Izard been navigated by one skilful from long practice in the management of steamboats, it is the opinion of General Read that there would have been no difficulty in ascending the stream.

It may be asked why I did not make known all these facts in my official report of the 19th of October? I answer, that many of them had not then transpired; others were then unknown to me. But, had they all been communicated on that day, they could not have saved me, as the President was pleased to censure and supersede me in command of the army, on rumor, without waiting for my official report. Having answered, as I conceive fully, the first ground of complaint alleged against me, I proceed to the second charge: "that, after approaching so near the enemy with so large a

force, and finding him disposed, apparently, to give me battle, I should have retired without a more serious attempt to cross the river and drive him from his position." In answer to this charge, I say, and will maintain with facts, that the passage of the river, with the means I possessed, and within the time in which our supplies required it to be done, was a rational impossibility, and could not have been accomplished by General Jackson himself.

This fact was fully ascertained at the time, and has been further confirmed, to the satisfaction of the whole army, on our last visit to the Cove.

I may not speak of myself, or of my own desire to cross and give battle to the enemy. But I can assure the President that the brave Tennesseans, headed by their gallant leader, were impatient at every moment's delay in pursuing the enemy, and that they have never stopped at any barrier, however formidable, which could be overcome by hardy enterprise. When we arrived at the river on the morning of the 13th, General Armstrong and myself entered the swamp with the spies and advanced guard. We had been induced to believe the stream was fordable, and that a passage could be forced in the presence and under the fire of the enemy. Under this belief, we resolved to make the attempt. The spies, through mistake, had preceded the guides, one of whom was a prisoner captured the evening before. A halt was ordered, to give the guides time to advance to the front and take the trail to the ford. I halted myself in view of the river, which was so wide, from its overflowing the banks, that I took it to be one of those lakes so frequently found in the swamps of this country. General Armstrong advanced with the guides to the head of the spies, and approached the supposed ford.

The guides entered the river; Major Lauderdale, a gallant and veteran soldier, was close behind them. General Armstrong, than whom a braver man never lived, was the first person in advance, and at the water's edge, (the two front horses were already swimming,) when the Indians poured in a heavy volley from the opposite side of the river. Our advance retired, fortunately without any loss or injury. The fire was returned with great spirit by the spies. General Armstrong rejoined me, and reported the river to be at least 200 yards wide, swimming from bank to bank, with drift-wood passing rapidly down the current. I immediately ordered all the horsemen to retire from the swamp, satisfied with the impracticability of swimming the stream in the presence of the enemy. After reaching the open ground in the rear, Major Gordon most gallantly offered to lead his battalion on foot, to give a further examination to the river, and to engage the enemy.

He was authorized to do so; and he and his command advanced with great intrepidity to the bank of the stream, when they received the fire of the enemy, which was instantly returned, and continued until they were ordered to retire, having silenced the yells and nearly the firing of the enemy. As stated in my official report, the gallant Major Gordon, and three of his brave followers, were wounded in this affair. The report of Major Gordon and his officers confirmed the opinion I had at first formed, that the passage of the river on horseback was impossible. The next mode of passing was by the construction of rafts; this was proposed. I have previously said that I marched from Suwanee Old town with no other transportation than pack-horses: hence we brought with us no other tools than a few axes. I called on Major Pierce, who informed me that he had no others than those required by the pioneers. We had not expected to meet with such a barrier, and were, therefore, unprepared to overcome it. To construct rafts,

to land a sufficient number of men to meet a formidable body of Indians, would have been the work of some time, with the best preparation. With us, it could not have been accomplished before the last ounce of provisions in our camp would have been consumed; besides there were no suitable materials to be found in the neighborhood for the construction of rafts. The pitch pine, it is well known, will sink almost as soon as lead; and the hard, heavy wood of the swamp, except when it is found dead and dry, is but little more favorable. I have had more than one occasion in the south to make the experiment, and know that it will not succeed. But admitting, for the sake of argument, that a sufficient number of rafts of the best materials could have been constructed in one hour to cross the whole army at a single trip; could its passage have been effected, in the presence of the enemy, without great slaughter? A raft could not have been carried over in less than ten or fifteen minutes, during which time the men would have been exposed to the deadly aim of a concealed enemy. It may be said that the rafts might have been built, and the men crossed over, at some other point than that occupied by the enemy; but the falling of the trees, and sound of the axes in procuring materials to construct the raft, would soon attract the attention of a vigilant enemy, and he would be prepared to meet you wherever you might attempt to cross, unless you went to some distant place. I assure you, sir, that the passage of this river at any point is exceedingly difficult, and almost impossible without boats. I am aware that the President is of opinion that, if we had passed into the Cove, we should have found an abundance of corn; but in this he is entirely mistaken. I examined the Cove in person, and am well convinced that there could not have been five bushels of corn raised in it, nor was there any appearance of corn having been brought to it from any other place; which corroborates the statements of all the prisoners, that they made no corn, and were living alone on beef. Even this article was generally unfit for use, and we destroyed hundreds of cattle which our hungry troops would not use.

Our subsequent difficulties in crossing the river, after the water had fallen four feet, proves it to have been impossible at the time the first attempt was made, as we still found it swimming in some places, and in all others deep fording; presenting a width of 220 yards, bordered on both sides with deep cypress swamps.

I have yet to speak of the stream flowing from the lake into the river, which the detachment of Tennessee troops, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Gill, attempted to cross without success on the 13th day of October. This formed another barrier, and, with the lake on the north and the Withlacoochie on the south, constituted a defence equalled only by the Cove itself. On our last visit to the Withlacoochie, supposing the passage into the Cove would be obstinately defended by the enemy, the Tennessee brigade, with its usual gallantry, claimed the honor of forcing the passage.

It was awarded to them; but while they were preparing to advance, a report from the friendly Indians, sent to reconnoitre the banks, informed me that four of their number had already crossed, and could find no recent sign of the enemy. On receiving this intelligence, General Armstrong, Colonel Trousdale, and the other officers present, with the same spirit of chivalry which induced them to make the request, (knowing it was my wish, in the first instance, that the regular troops and Creek warriors should be sent into the Cove,) declined the permission granted them, and asked permission to seek a new enterprise at the stream flowing from the lake and the towns be-

yond it, where Lieutenant Colonel Gill and his brave followers had fought so gallantly on the 13th of October. Accordingly, then, the Tennessee brigade was ordered to that point; they approached in the confident expectation of finding the enemy there strongly posted and in great force. They were disappointed; they found no impediment to their march, but the stream itself, and the swamps and marshes with which it was bordered on both sides. The water had greatly subsided; but the stream was wide and deep, in some places still swimming, the banks boggy, and covered with a dense undergrowth.

The report of General Armstrong and all the officers of his brigade proves the impossibility of crossing when the attempt was first made, on the 13th of October, and sustains the high character of Colonel Gill for his bearing and good conduct on that day. I have already, in my official report of the 27th ultimo, mentioned the destruction of the towns beyond this stream by the regiment under the command of Colonel Trousdale, accompanied by Major Barry, the aid of General Armstrong, who gallantly volunteered his services on this occasion. I trust, sir, that the difficulties which presented themselves in the passage of the river, the want of means to overcome them, and the necessity which required that the army should march immediately to a depot for supplies, show sufficient and abundant reasons why I did not cross the river and drive the enemy from his position. When I marched from the camp opposite the Cove, my route was down the banks of the Withlacoochie, merely avoiding its swamps, which were impassable. I had, as I have shown, a right confidently to believe I should find supplies in a march of thirty-five or forty miles. I expected to cross one-half of the army in boats at that point, and, in a few days, march up on both sides and attack the enemy. The idea of a "*retrograde*" movement had never been conceived by me, or any officer of my command. I thought it best to march this short distance on the line of the enemy's barrier, to a point where the pressing necessities of the army could be supplied, when a portion of it might be crossed over the river, with its baggage, without difficulty; and from whence the whole force could arrive at the Cove in five days, and attack and rout the emeny. I deemed this more judicious than to exhaust the last remnant of our supplies in a fruitless effort to cross the river, which, in our situation, was believed to be impossible.

Yet this charge of making retrograde movements has been made by the Department of War, sustained by the high authority of the President of the United States, and constitutes the first sentence in the order to General Jesup by which I am superseded. All this is done on "rumor," and before a "definitive" judgment has been formed of my conduct. I believe the explanation I have given, and the proofs I am prepared to offer, will not only acquit, but justify me in the opinions of all unprejudiced men. But the judge who condemns the prisoner on "rumor" unproved, and causes him to be executed before a "definitive" judgment is formed of his guilt, will seldom admit, on any testimony, however conclusive, that this unhappy man died innocent.

That I did not meet with supplies on the Withlacoochie, according to my expectations, I have and still consider one of the greatest misfortunes which could have befallen me, and has been a source of the deepest mortification.

But it was from no fault of mine, for I had prepared all the necessary means to insure success; and, but for the circumstances which I have mentioned, which could not be anticipated by any one, the depot would

have been established before the 5th of October. When, however, I failed in all these well grounded expectations, what was next to be done? Should the army perish in the wilderness, or should it march in pursuit of food? I preferred the latter, and it was done.

The several complaints which you have mentioned against me, when taken collectively, amount to the charge of having made a retrograde movement before the enemy. This charge will be repelled by the united voice of the whole army which I have the honor to command, and I am prepared to meet it in such a manner as will satisfy my friends and country of the injustice which has been done me.

The apprehensions of the President for the safety of the frontier, supposed to have been exposed by what you have been pleased to denominate my "retrograde movements," were entirely unnecessary, and must have arisen from his want of information of my position at Fort Drane, and of the fact that the last scout of the enemy had been destroyed or driven across the Withlacoochie.

Since writing the above, I have the satisfaction to inform you that Major General Jesup has arrived at my camp, and that on this day (4th December) I shall surrender to him the command of the army in Florida. Feeling a deep interest in the prompt and successful termination of this troublesome war, I am highly gratified at being relieved in command by an officer of such distinguished merit. But I owe it to him, as my successor, to say that he may, and most probably will, meet with embarrassments and delays in the execution of his high trust, which have not and cannot be anticipated by the Government. He will find, as others have done, that the transportation of supplies into the interior, even now, when all the depots are established and well furnished, will be attended with the most serious embarrassment; and that to keep an army constantly acting against the enemy, another force of equal size should be employed in constructing and garrisoning posts, and in protecting the transport train in its passage. Believing, sir, that I have sustained the deepest injury, and that I have been visited with the greatest injustice by the orders of the President, communicated in your letter of the 4th ultimo, I must avail myself of the common privilege of demanding an investigation of my conduct. I have, therefore, respectfully to suggest that a court of inquiry may be ordered to assemble, to inquire into and report on all the official improprieties with which I am charged. In making this request, I have no right, perhaps, to offer a suggestion with regard to the time or place when and where the court should assemble. But it is a duty I owe myself to inform the department, that, by the fatigue and exposure I have encountered in the prosecution of this campaign, during a continued stage of enfeebled health, I have contracted a disease of the lungs, which would cause a visit to the north during the winter months to be attended with the most fatal consequences. It would, therefore, be to me a matter of vital importance that some other time or place should be selected.

So soon as I shall have passed this ordeal, I shall, with great pleasure, tender to the President of the United States my resignation as Governor of the Territory of Florida.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
General, commanding.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Acting Secretary of War, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS, VOLUSIA,
December 6, 1836.

SIR: I regret exceedingly that I should be under the necessity of addressing the department again on a subject which may not be agreeable; and, in doing so, I hope I shall not be considered as offering the least disrespect to you, as nothing could be more foreign from my intentions. But when there is awarded censure against me, in any of the departments of the Government, I hold that I have a right (which cannot with propriety be denied me) of placing on the same record my explanation or justification.

I therefore deem it a duty which I owe myself to address you, in reply to a letter I have received, dated October 7, and signed C. A. Harris, acting Secretary of War. That this letter was dictated, if not written, by the late Secretary, no one acquainted with the circumstances will doubt for a single moment; and it is most manifest that he retired from office on the 6th, making a clerk of his office a *catspaw* to sign the letter on the 7th of October. How far such a course is justifiable, I am content that others should express an opinion; I intend only a vindication of my own conduct, and shall mention that of others only when it becomes necessary.

The letter of the 7th of October is in reply to a remark contained in a letter of mine to General Jesup. He had inquired whether the necessary measures had been adopted, to prevent the intercourse between the Indians of Florida and Spanish fishermen and traders. I expressed my apprehensions that they had not—I had good reasons for this belief—although I had called the attention of the department to this subject soon after I came into office.

Some time in August I received a report from an officer, commanding one of the transport vessels in the service, informing me that a large Spanish sloop had been seen, sailing direct from the coast of Florida, steering in the direction of the island of Cuba; that it was believed she had been trafficking with the Indians; and that there had been no revenue-cutter on that part of the coast for a length of time.

I enclosed to the late Secretary a copy of this report, accompanied with a copy of my correspondence with Commodore Dallas on the subject of guarding the coast. I referred him to the letters of the Commodore, as evidence of his unwillingness to adopt my suggestions, or to correspond with me on the subject, arising, perhaps, from an apprehension on his part that I wished to assume command over him, when my letters, as I conceived, furnished not the least ground for such a belief. I mentioned all this to the late Secretary, and said to him that, if he would place two of the revenue-cutters at my command, I would be answerable for all intercourse which might take place between the Indians of Florida and Spanish traders.

It was in reference to these facts I said, in my letter to General Jesup, when speaking of the conduct of the late Secretary, instead "of acting with the promptness and energy which the importance of the case required," he referred me back to Commodore Dallas, (whom he again informed me had been ordered to co-operate with me,) and suggested that I might use, for guarding the coast, one of the steamboats furnished me by the Government, which I termed "crazy steamboats" in my letter to General Jesup.

Now, sir, with more cunning and address than fairness or propriety, the whole ground is changed.

After saying my remarks are "*deemed indecorous, improper, and unjust,*" the letter of the 7th of October proceeds to say, what every body knows,

that the War Department has no control over naval operations; and all it can do is to bring the subject before the proper branch of the Executive, and suggest the "*propriety* of the *appropriate* measures;" that this had always been done "with the promptness and energy which the case has demanded, and that your (my) assumption to the contrary is entirely groundless."

Every man of common understanding will see that this is an evasive quibble, not very creditable to the inventor. I had shown the necessity of guarding the coast; I had asked for the direction of two of the revenue-cutters for that purpose: in reply, the late Secretary informed me that the cutters were under the command of Commodore Dallas; that it was a delicate matter to ask the Navy Department to have those I asked for placed under my command; and advised me to write to Commodore Dallas on the subject, when the copy of my correspondence with that officer was then before his eyes, and, if he read it, must have shown him that such an application was not the appropriate remedy.

Now, sir, did he apply to the Navy Department to have the cutters placed under my direction, or to have them otherwise so employed as to guard the coast effectually? If he did not, then my statement, that he did not act with the promptness and energy which the occasion required, was strictly true; and I might with propriety, in answer to the allegation of having made a "groundless" statement, retort by the application of a much stronger term.

If he did make the application to the Navy Department, (which it is said in the letter of the 7th of October he never failed to do,) still my statement was not "groundless;" because when he informed me that it was a delicate matter to make such a request, and advised me to write again to Commodore Dallas, I certainly had a right to believe he would not make the application to the Navy Department, or give himself any further trouble on the subject. This charge, therefore, is fully answered. But, sir, one word with regard to the revenue cutters, which I was informed were placed under the command of Commodore Dallas to guard the coast of Florida. Where have they been employed? How does it happen that one of them, the Dallas, (according to the public prints,) has been lost on the bar of Tampico? Why was she from her station? And why was she on the Spanish main?

Again: I am charged in the same letter, and in the same *cautious* manner, with making another statement, "equally *groundless*," "respecting the crazy steamboats." I said, in my letter to General Jesup, that the late Secretary had suggested the employment, as a guard for the coast, of one of the crazy steamboats furnished me by the Government. The term "crazy" was introduced by myself; it was not used as a quotation from the Secretary's letter, as every man of common sense would readily perceive at a glance. I represented them on the report of the officers who commanded them, and who represented them as being dangerous in running from one port to another, along the coast, even in the most favorable weather. He, however, says that he "did not expect me to send a crazy one." When all were crazy, how could I do otherwise, if I sent either of them?

It is said that the suggestion was made from opinions formed on my communications. I will not, in the courteous language of the department, say this statement is entirely "*groundless*;" but no communications of mine will justify the assertion. To avoid the dilemma, it is said I might have chartered or purchased a steamboat for the service. In answer to this, I say that no steamboat whatever would answer the purpose. But, while the

whole West India squadron lay at anchor in the bay of Pensacola, is it possible that it could have been the intention of the Government that I should either purchase or charter a steamboat to guard the coast—a service for which it was entirely inadequate; and that this intention should have been expressed in the suggestion that I might use one of the steamboats already furnished by the Government?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
General, commanding the army of Florida.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Acting Secretary of War, Washington.

JACKSONVILLE, *December* 16, 1836.

SIR: In my last, from Volusia, I informed you that I should, on that day, (the 5th instant,) deliver the command of the army to General Jesup, in obedience to the orders of the President of the United States. He did not assume the command until the morning of the 8th, although I tendered it to him in fifteen minutes after his arrival at my camp, on the evening of the 4th instant, and was at all times ready to deliver it to him, until the transfer of authority actually took place. I mention these facts, as I will not consent to be charged with one moment of the time after the arrival of General Jesup at Volusia; though I intend no reflection whatever upon him, as he deserves none. In obedience to your orders, I re-established the post at Volusia, and made it a permanent depot, which I should not otherwise have done, as I found it, on examination, not only out of position, but exceedingly difficult of access both by land and water.

Permit me to ask, sir, if there was not a topographical report made of this place, and the approaches to it, by the engineers who accompanied General Eustis? and, if there was, why the department did not furnish me with a copy of that report, when I informed the Government, as early as July last, of my intention to establish a depot at Volusia?

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

The Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Acting Secretary of War.

TOPOGRAPHICAL BUREAU,
Washington, January 12, 1837.

SIR: In reply to that part of the letter of General Call, in which he speaks of a topographical report of a part of Florida, (referring particularly to the approaches to, and military character of, the position of Volusia,) I have the honor to state, that no report of that character, of that or any other part of Florida, has ever been received at this office.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

———.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Secretary of War ad interim.

JACKSONVILLE, *December* 20, 1836.

SIR: Before I close my correspondence with the department on military subjects, I feel it my duty to lodge a complaint against Lieutenant L'Engle, the quartermaster at Charleston, for conduct which, in my opinion, deserves the most exemplary punishment. So soon as I was informed of the time when the Tennessee brigade would march from Alabama to Florida, I wrote to Lieutenant L'Engle to ship to this place, without delay, 75,000 rations, and a large quantity of forage, to be transported in vessels calculated to ascend the river to Volusia. I informed him, at the same time, that the army would depend on those supplies, and that they would be required in a very short time. My letter was mailed at Tallahassee on the 3d day of September. The mail passes in five days from the latter place to Charleston, and my letter should have been received on the 8th of September. I did not leave Tallahassee until the 19th of September, and yet I received no answer from him; nor have I since done so. I instructed Colonel Crane to write him on the subject; but never have been enabled to obtain any acknowledgment of the receipt of my letter; nor were any of the supplies, so far as I can learn, forwarded agreeably to my order. I have proof, however, that my letter was received by Lieutenant L'Engle, for, among other things, I ordered him to furnish four barges of a certain description to ascend the St. John's to its highest point of navigation, in case the Indians should retreat to the south. The quartermaster at Savannah by some means (and I know of none other than my letter to Mr. L'Engle) became acquainted with my wishes, and had barges built. They have been sent to Volusia, where they have performed much valuable service. Mr. L'Engle, I understand, is one of those officers (and, I presume, you are apprized there were many) who were unwilling to acknowledge my authority to command them, and were determined to throw every embarrassment in my way.

But for the faithful and prompt attention of other officers of the Quartermaster's Department, the army under my command would have suffered much from the delinquency of Mr. L'Engle. I hope, sir, that such conduct as this will not be permitted to pass unpunished. Had he been within the limits of my command, I should have taken the most prompt measures for this purpose.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,
Acting Secretary of War.

JACKSONVILLE, *December* 20, 1836.

SIR: In the last annual message of the President of the United States, I find the following remark: "The result of the first movements made by the forces under the direction of Governor Call, in October last, as detailed in the *accompanying papers*, excited much surprise and disappointment."

Not having been informed by you of the authors, or the nature of the "communications" mentioned in your letter of reproach, dated on the 4th of November, or, through any source, of the character of the "*papers*" which

excited so much the "surprise and disappointment" of the President of the United States, I have respectfully to request that I may be furnished with a copy of those "papers," which appear to have been sufficiently important to lay before Congress, and this, too, before I have been informed of their contents, or had an opportunity of replying to them; thus forestalling public opinion, and impressing it with a belief of my having committed great official improprieties, even before (according to your own statements, made evidently under the sanction of the highest authority) the President and yourself had formed a "*definitive judgment of my conduct.*"

The President further remarks, that a "full explanation had been required of the causes which had led to this failure." Now, sir, in common justice, I have a right to expect that my letter, in answer to yours of the 4th November, which contains the explanations required, will also be laid before Congress.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. B. F. Butler,
Acting Secretary of War.

Tallahassee, *January* 5, 1837.

Sir: On the 27th of November and 2d of December last, I had the honor to address you. The first letter contained my official report of the battles of the 17th, 18th, and 21st of November; and the second was my reply to your letter of the 4th of November, superseding me in the command of the army, and, among other things, calling on me for a full report of the causes which induced me to retire to Fort Drane and Black creek, for supplies, in October last. No acknowledgment of the receipt of my letters having come to hand, I have respectfully to inquire whether they have, or not, been received at your department; on being advised by you that they have not been received, duplicates shall be immediately forwarded.

It is natural that I should feel some curiosity to know whether the court of inquiry, which I have requested, will be granted me, or not; and I hope no unnecessary delay will take place in giving me this information.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. B. F. Butler,
Acting Secretary of War.

Tallahassee, *February* 20, 1837.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your several letters of the 30th December and the 14th January.

My answer to the first has been delayed under the expectation that each succeeding mail would bring me the second, so long promised and so anxiously expected.

Your letter of the 30th December contains little else than copious extracts from that of the 4th of November, and of mine in reply, written on the 2d of December; the object of which is to show that I had done injustice to Lieutenant Mitchell, mentioned and referred to as authority in your

letter of the 4th November, superseding me in command of the army. I am not so tenacious of my claims to infallibility as not to acknowledge my error when made sensible that one has been committed.

I met with this officer on his return from Washington, and called on him very promptly to know what matters he had "elucidated" to my prejudice in his "verbal statements" made to the President and yourself. He satisfied me so conclusively, by the frankness of his manner, and direct answer to my inquiries, that I had done him injustice in my letter of the 2d December, that I voluntarily, and without a moment's hesitation, gave him a letter acknowledging the injury, and expressing my regret that it should have been done.

In your letter of the 30th December, you observe that that part of it which relates to Lieutenant Mitchell will be sent to him, and that it is not doubted that I will take pleasure in extending to him "the like justice" which I invoke for myself. In this, sir, you have not mistaken my disposition. I ask no other justice, on any occasion, than that which I readily award to others. And I regret exceedingly to find that I am mistaken in the hope I had entertained that the "like justice" would be done to me, which I so cordially and cheerfully administered to Lieutenant Mitchell. The injustice, however, I have done to that officer, was produced entirely by the remarks contained in your letter of the 4th of November. You observe, that on a more careful perusal of that letter I will find that you did not inform me that Lieutenant Mitchell had "elucidated" any rumor unfavorable to my conduct or military character; that the observation is, that certain events, in respect to which ample details had been furnished by the mails received at Washington prior to the 4th of November, had been further elucidated by the verbal statements of that officer. Now, sir, you must permit me to say that I do not find this to be either the language or the meaning of your letter of the 4th of November. In that letter, after mentioning the rumor which had reached Washington of my march to the Withlacoochie, and back to Fort Drane, and referring to the statements contained in my letter of the 10th of October, the observation is, "It was confidently hoped that this rumor would prove erroneous. It was, however, substantially confirmed by various communications received during the early part of the present week, which also gave us the additional intelligence that Colonel Lane, with the regulars and friendly Indians under his command, after marching from Tampa Bay to the Withlacoochie, had also returned to Fort Drane; that the Tennessee brigade, having sustained a serious loss in horses, and being destitute of forage, had been moved to Black creek; and that, in consequence of these untoward events, and for the want of horses, transportation, and supplies, your operations are likely to be suspended for several weeks. The mails since, though they have not brought us any communication from yourself, have furnished ample details *of all these events*, which have been still further elucidated by the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell," &c. This is your language, sir; you speak not of certain events, but of *all these events;* you give a connected narrative of events, and observe that they have *all* been elucidated by Lieutenant Mitchell. To what events do you allude? Was not my retiring to Fort Drane one of them? Did you not learn this event from rumor, as well as from the communications received, &c.? And when you say, "*all these events* have been further elucidated by the verbal statements of Lieutenant Mitchell," am I to understand that you mean "certain events" less

than "*all?*" and that you are now at liberty to conclude any one of them, to sustain the propriety of your conduct, and to prove that I am wrong? What may have been your intention, I will not pretend to say; but the terms in which you have expressed yourself, to my mind convey the idea that Lieutenant Mitchell "elucidated" *all* the unfavorable circumstances which you mention, to my prejudice. I have conceived it due to myself to say thus much in reply to your letter of the 30th December. I will now take notice of some of the statements contained in that of the 14th ultimo. This letter, sir, is not only diplomatic, but it is truly characteristic of the high professional reputation you enjoy. It is much more compatible with the character of the dexterous special-pleader, who seeks, by professional skill, to evade a truth he is not prepared to meet, than it is with that of the War Minister of a great and enlightened nation. You have presented an elaborate argument to justify the course you have pursued towards myself; and while you palliate, you have repeated the charges contained against me in your letter of the 4th of November. After speaking of the tone of my letter, and the feelings which I have manifested, you say that I have more than once expressed doubts as to the willingness of either yourself or the President to repair, even after the clearest demonstration, the wrong you may have committed. I most deeply regret, sir, to find from your last letter that my apprehensions on that subject were not entirely unfounded; for while you are compelled, by the force of circumstances, and the facts disclosed in the course of my explanation, to give me a partial and faint acquittal of the charges contained in your letter of the 4th of November, you endeavor to sustain your own propriety by a renewal of most of those charges, though, in doing so, I fear, sir, you have been less accurate than usual in some of the statements you have made in justification of yourself and to my prejudice. This, I am willing to believe, has arisen from inadvertency, and not from design; for if you had perceived them yourself, you could scarcely imagine that I would permit them to pass unnoticed. After stating the object of your letter of the 4th of November, you observe that the "propriety of the call for explanation must be determined by the circumstances known to the department at the time: these were briefly communicated in my letter," &c. You then proceed to speak of the evidence in support of these circumstances, and of my objection to that evidence; and add, "a still further, and, if it were needed, a more decisive answer, is to be found in the fact, that, of the various communications stated in my letter, there is not one which is not substantially admitted in your communication of the 2d ultimo, or in the enclosed copy of your still missing despatch of the 19th of October." What were the prominent circumstances in your letter of the 4th of November, all of which you now say are substantially admitted by me? The first was, that I had commenced the campaign without first having taken effectual measures to secure the needful supplies, &c.; the second was, that I had retired from the Withlacoochie without making a more serious attempt to cross the river and drive the enemy from his position; and the third is, that, by retiring, I had exposed the frontier to the invasion of the enemy. These are the only "circumstances" I discussed in my letter of the 2d of December; and I am sure, on more "deliberate" examination of my letter, though you held it so long unanswered, you will not say that I substantially admitted either of them, directly or indirectly; on the contrary, you must, in the candor which you profess, say that they are all expressly and most posi-

tively denied. But, sir, I choose that my letter shall speak for itself. To the first "circumstance," I made the following remark: "Is the accusation just, or can it be sustained in truth, that I did commence the execution of this important campaign without first taking effectual measures to secure all needful supplies?" I answer, that it is not; and that the charge cannot be supported. In answer to the second charge, I said that I would "maintain, with facts, that the passage of the river, with the means I possessed, and within the time in which our supplies required it to be done, was a natural impossibility." The peculiar phraseology in which this "circumstance" is expressed, does not allow of either an admission or a denial. But, understanding it to mean that I did not make a sufficient attempt to cross the river, I have denied the practicability, and endeavored to prove it by a narration of facts, which, I still believe, will be sufficient with all those who are not biassed in favor of a contrary belief by the interest they may feel in sustaining the correctness of their own proceeding. In answer to the third "circumstance," that I had, by retiring, exposed the frontier to invasion from the enemy, I observed, "the apprehensions of the President for the safety of the frontier, supposed to have been exposed by what you have been pleased to denominate my 'retrograde movements,' was entirely unnecessary, and must have arisen from his want of information of the position I held at Fort Drane, and of the fact that the last scout of the enemy had either been destroyed or driven across the Withlacoochie." These are my answers to the prominent circumstances detailed in your letter of the 4th of November, which constitute the whole ground of complaint against me. Surely, sir, you will not persist in the assertion that they are admissions of the truth of the "circumstances" to which they relate, although you have said, in your letter of the 14th ultimo, that, of the various circumstances stated in your letter of the 4th of November, there is not one which has not been substantially admitted. The only "circumstances" detailed in your letter of the 4th of November, which are admitted, either in my official report of the 19th of October, or in my letter of the 2d of December, are my ill health, and the want of supplies for the army. But, sir, does the want of supplies prove that the necessary means had not been taken to obtain them? If so, it is only necessary to show that an army has been in want, to convict the general in command of an error fatal to his reputation, no matter with what success he might afterwards prosecute the campaign. I have shown, in my letter of the 2d of December, that the wants of the army which I had the honor to command were owing to my disappointment in not finding supplies at Graham's camp, where I had ordered them to be placed; and I have shown that I had taken efficient and competent measures to have them conveyed to that point. The last fact I consider is fully admitted in the following language in which you have expressed yourself: "The various facts detailed in your report, in respect to the measures taken by you to secure the necessary supplies, whilst operating on the Withlacoochie, have been maturely weighed by the President and the department; we concur with you in thinking that you had good reason to expect, when you marched from Fort Drane, on the 9th of October, that the depot previously ordered to be established by General Read at Graham's camp would be completed by at least the 16th of October; and we are, also, satisfied that the causes which prevented the establishment of that particular depot, at that time, are by no means to be imputed to any act or omission of yours." Now, sir, when it is fully shown that the want of supplies for

the army under my command arose entirely from the failure to establish this depot at the time it was required to be done, one might have supposed that I would have been completely acquitted of the charge of having commenced the campaign without having first taken effectual measures to procure the needful supplies, and that no error would have been imputed to me for having marched to that point for subsistence at the time I did. But no, sir; this could not be done: by acquitting me of this charge, your conviction of the injustice of which I complained was the natural result. This must be averted, even at the expense of committing an irreconcilable inconsistency; and, on this subject, you therefore add, "But it is due to candor, and it is called for by the *peculiar language of your letter*, to say, that it yet remains to be regretted that you should have marched from Fort Drane with so scanty a supply of provisions, before you had ascertained that the projected depot—a depot so indispensable to the success of your movements—had been actually established." You then speak of my directions to General Read, as involving several distinct measures which might fail, from accidents beyond his control, and observe, "There seems, therefore, to have been a want of due caution in moving to a position where you would be thrown on him for the subsistence of your forces, without first knowing that his supplies would certainly be accessible." It is admitted that I had "good reason to expect" that the depot would have been established at least by the 16th of October; and yet I am charged with having betrayed a want of due caution, and an "error of judgment is imputed to me" for having marched to that depot for supplies. Men are generally supposed to be governed by reason; and when it is admitted that one has good reason to believe or to do any thing, it seems inappropriate to say that there was error of judgment in believing or doing that which was dictated by "good reason."

I cannot forbear, sir, to offer a remark on the unfairness (if you will pardon the expression) with which you have stated every proposition discussed in your letter of the 30th ultimo. In speaking of my answer to the complaint alleged against me for retiring from the Withlacoochie, you say: "The conclusions of the President and the department on this part of the case, if not so favorable as you desire, are yet sufficiently so to exempt yourself and the army under your command from the imputations which you suppose to be implied in the call for explanation." In a preceding part of that letter, you labored most unnecessarily to prove that the call for explanation was proper; and one of the proofs on which you rely is the fact of my having complied with the call. This is a strange deduction to be drawn from such a fact: but why prove that which was never denied? The propriety of that call was not the matter in issue between us; but the justice or injustice of the censure so forcibly implied in the expression of the President's disappointment and surprise at my retiring from the Withlacoochie, with so strong a force, without a more serious attempt to cross the river, and drive the enemy from his position. You cannot be in doubt, sir, on this point; and yet you speak of the "imputations" which I supposed "to be implied in the call for explanation." It is much easier, I will admit, to prove a proposition which is not denied, than it is to sustain an unjust accusation, even by the fictitious and unreal facts which you have stated for that purpose. After the very faint and unsatisfactory acquittal given in the last quotation from your letter, you proceed to say: "At the same time, it is my duty to remind you that the passage of the Withlacoochie was effected

on the 16th of October (only a day or two after you abandoned the attempt) by Colonel Lane, with the regulars and Indians under his command, at a place about *three miles* from your encampment. It was also accomplished on the 13th of November, by your own army. These facts prove that the difficulties of the passage, though at all times, doubtless, very great, were not insuperable." Now, sir, let us examine these facts: and, in doing so, permit me to say that the first, on which you reply with such implicit confidence, is entirely destitute of truth; and if it ever had even an ideal existence, it must have been in the imagination of some willing witness for my conviction of impropriety. Colonel Lane crossed the Withlacoochie at the shoals, *twenty-five or thirty miles below my camp*—at one of the most favorable crossing places known on the river, and not very far from Graham's camp, where I marched in the hope of finding supplies. His passage was not opposed by the enemy; and although his force was peculiarly calculated to accomplish this object, (being all Indians, accustomed to swim at all times, with the exception of 100 men,) it required a whole day to effect the crossing: and had his passage been disputed by the enemy, notwithstanding his advantages, it would not have been accomplished. The want of truth in the first fact on which you rely must render it unavailable for the purpose for which it was intended; the second, that of the army under my command having crossed the river on the 13th of November, does not prove, by any means, that the passage at the same place on the 13th of October was practicable. You will permit me to remind you, as you seem to have overlooked, forgotten, or disregarded the difference of circumstances which attended the passage at the different times above mentioned, that they were particularly stated in my letter of the 2d of December, and cannot fail to make an impression on the mind of any one who will attend to them. On the 13th of October I found the river swollen from rains; it covered a part of the swamp on either side, and was swimming from bank to bank. I found the enemy strongly posted on the opposite side, and offering a determined resistance to our passage. On the 13th of November the river had fallen four feet perpendicular, and was swimming only a part of the distance over; the enemy had abandoned the Cove, and no longer remained to dispute our passage: still it was effected with great difficulty, and four men were drowned in its accomplishment. The difficulty of swimming men and horses over a rapid stream 220 yards wide, under a deadly fire, is too apparent to require a comment; and, if it were not entirely impossible, it must have been attended with a sacrifice of life which few circumstances could justify, and would have rendered even victory itself a disaster: numbers must have perished in the attempt. Wounded men and wounded horses, obstructing the passage, would soon have increased the difficulty of crossing; and, if any had been so fortunate as to reach the opposite bank, few would have been able to preserve their ammunition, and they would have fallen easy victims to the folly and madness of the general by whose orders they were forced into such extremities. You may, by intuition, possess that knowledge of the profession of arms which others have acquired by years of hardy service in the field: but, admitting this extraordinary fact, it is not very probable that you, at the distance of one thousand miles, were better enabled to judge of the practicability of crossing the river than myself, and the brave officers and men under my command. In every instance in which you admit the existence of any circumstance which may have a tendency to render my conduct even excusable, you never fail to add some-

thing to neutralize the effect, and render such admissions unacceptable; and, in this spirit, you observe that "cogent and, perhaps, sufficient reasons for the abandonment of the enterprise on your first movement are, however, to be found in your total want of provisions (except such as your men would not use) and other supplies, and in the great loss of horses your troops had sustained; but this only increases our regret at the original cause of these untoward 'circumstances.'" By the provisions which my "men would not use," I presume you mean the cattle which I informed you I had destroyed because they were unfit for use. By what authority do you call these cattle provisions, when I have informed you that they were so miserably poor that my hungry soldiers would not feed upon them? Your giving the inappropriate name of "provisions" to the loathsome flesh of these animals could not make it more acceptable. But it may induce a belief that I had a supply of provisions, which might have been, but which my men would not use. With regard to the lost horses, I beg leave again to correct an error into which you have fallen. My army had lost no horses at that time, except such as had strayed from my encampment at night, and which could not be found. Throughout your whole correspondence, you seem to consider my march to Fort Drane, and the first expedition to the Withlacoochie, as an entire failure, unattended with any circumstances to justify these movements. Perhaps, sir, on a careful examination of the results, a more favorable conclusion may be drawn. From the 1st of October, the day on which I arrived at Fort Drane, and from which the commencement of my operations should be dated, until the 19th, the day of my return from the Withlacoochie, thirty-three warriors were killed in our scouts and skirmishes, and twelve prisoners were taken—a much more important result than has usually attended campaigns against the Seminole nation. Another attending circumstance was the discovery of the Cove, the stronghold of the enemy. This place had never before been known to any white man. The several expeditions made during the last winter passed to the the east and west of that place, without finding the retreat of the Indians; and it was a matter of some importance to find out their hiding-places. I marched on the trail from Fort Drane without knowing where it led, and, when my provisions were exhausted, I was compelled to seek further supplies.

In your letter of the 14th you have spoken frequently of the loss of time which was occasioned by this expedition. Perhaps, on examination, you may be satisfied that the time lost by my movements (if there was any) could not have exceeded six or seven days at most. Until the establishment of the depot at Graham's camp—a fact of which I was not advised until the 4th or 5th of November, (and you have condemned me for moving upon it before I knew it was certainly established)—I had to draw my supplies from Black creek, a distance of about sixty-five miles. It was the evening of the 8th of October before I could have little more than five days' rations brought to Fort Drane, without a single grain of corn for the horses. I marched to the Withlacoochie on the evening of the 9th, and returned to Fort Drane on the evening of the 17th of October. An express was sent to Black creek, with orders to forward provisions to Fort Drane with all possible despatch. The wagon-train was immediately put in motion, and, although it was constantly employed from the 19th of October, it was the 9th of November before there was a sufficient supply of provisions to enable me to move on the second expedition to the Cove, not-

withstanding the whole Tennessee brigade, men and horses, were fed at Black creek during this time; it required thence twenty-one days to bring to Fort Drane the provisions consumed in that time, and those which enabled me to march on the second expedition. Now, sir, if it required twenty-one days after my return, is it not fair to presume that it would have required the same length of time to have brought out the same quantity of provisions before I moved? If this is admitted, then it is evident that I lost only the seven days employed in going to the Withlacoochie, and in returning to Fort Drane. But, sir, I will not admit that the time was lost in which I killed twenty-three and captured twelve of the enemy; and in which I opened a road to, and discovered, the stronghold of the enemy, before unknown to any white man. The information of the country, derived from my own observation, as well as from the prisoners, enabled me to make the second expedition in a manner which has not been censured. One of the prisoners acted as a guide, and without whom we should never have become acquainted with the labyrinths of the Cove. This expedition of seven days was highly important in another respect. It drove the whole Indian force beyond the Withlacoochie, and relieved the frontier from further depredation. Until this was done, the Tennessee troops could not, without manifest impropriety, have been marched to Black creek; and had they remained at Fort Drane, they and their horses would have consumed forage and provisions as fast as it could have been brought to them. Hence, it is obvious, sir, that the short time in which operations were suspended was not occasioned by a premature movement from Fort Drane, but from my disappointment in not finding supplies at Graham's camp on the 16th of October, where you admit that I had "good reason to expect them," though you condemn, as an error of judgment, my having acted under the influence of that "good reason." After discussing the special charges exhibited against me, you make the following remark: "And with respect to your general operations, it is still a subject of disappointment and regret, considering the time and means allowed you, that more effectual measures were not taken for securing such supplies as might have enabled you, on commencing offensive operations, to maintain the positions to which you might advance, and to prosecute the campaign with steadiness and vigor." As no specific act of impropriety is stated in the preceding quotation, I am at a loss to know whether it is to be regarded as a *general court*, covering the facts alleged in the special assignments, and intended as an *amendment of your declaration*, or whether it is to be considered as presenting new matter to be replied to. If the former, I am willing to rely on the answers I have already given: if the latter, I must say, that, if it is intended as a reflection on my not having advanced depots with the army into the country held by the enemy, before marching to attack him, I cannot see the justice or propriety of such censure. If supplies are to precede the army, or to be moved with it in such abundance as to enable the general to "maintain" the positions to which he might advance, and to prosecute the campaign with steadiness and vigor," without falling back on any depot for support, my word on it, sir, your army will never overtake the enemy. If this is the rule you have prescribed for the government of your generals in the field, be not surprised, sir, if the Seminole war, contemptible as it has been regarded, should continue yet for many years. No general has ever been successful who has marched on such a plan. An army encumbered with a heavy train of supplies will never

march with sufficient rapidity to overtake a fugitive enemy; and the only successful mode is to move with despatch, and surprise your enemy. It was upon this plan that the brilliant and successful campaigns of General Jackson were made; and the history of his Indian wars will prove that after every battle he was compelled to make a "retrograde movement" (if you will please to call it so) to obtain supplies for his hungry army. In another part of your letter, you assign my ill-health as the cause of my being superseded in command of the army, and appear to consider my animadversions and complaints on that subject the more extraordinary, since, in the communication to me, and in that to General Jesup of the same date, (a copy of which was enclosed to me,) the transfer of the command to the latter was expressly attributed to the apprehension that I might not be able, in my then feeble state of health, to finish the campaign with the promptitude and energy demanded by the crisis. My health, sir, was truly very bad, and my sufferings were severe; but I made no report of it to the department, as I entered on the campaign with the determination of closing the war or perishing in the attempt, and, had I been *permitted* to remain in the field, I should most certainly have done one or the other; and that I was still able to prosecute the campaign with some success, I hope is sufficiently proven by the results. But, sir, had my ill-health been the only cause assigned for removing me from the command, I should have yielded it to General Jesup with the utmost pleasure, and not a murmur would have been heard from me on the subject; and it is well known to the department that I tendered him the command on his arrival in Florida. It cannot be denied, however, that there were other causes stated in your letter of the 4th of November, which were highly derogatory to my reputation; and I regret exceedingly to find, sir, in your letter of the 14th ultimo, after expressly alleging that "the transfer of the command of the army to General Jesup should be attributed to the apprehensions that I might not be able, in my then feeble state of health, to finish the campaign," &c., you should have found it necessary to assign other causes less favorable, for the adoption of that measure. After speaking of the right of General Jesup to the command, (a right I never questioned,) you observe, "It is true the department afterwards acceded to the very liberal suggestions of that officer, that, as you had prepared the plan of the campaign, you should be allowed to conduct it; and had the condition of things remained unaltered, the arrangements probably would not have been interfered with; but their condition had been entirely changed by the retirement of the army from the Withlacoochie—the suspension of offensive operations—the want of an official report from you—the short period remaining for the employment of the Tennessee volunteers—the necessity produced by that cause, and other considerations, for the utmost promptitude—and, above all, by your own severe sickness." These are the causes which led to my being superseded in the command of the army. And pray, sir, let me ask, how does this statement correspond with the one made in the preceding part of your letter, in which my ill-health is assigned as the only cause of the transfer? There is another part of your letter in which I am so entirely misrepresented, that I cannot permit it to pass without correction. In your admission that the failure to establish the depot on the Withlacoochie at the time I required it, was not to be attributed to any fault of mine, you say: "This remark, however, must not be understood as sanctioning your complaints against the naval officers employed in navigating the steamboats." The following, I presume, is that part of my

letter to which you allude; and, if my understanding is correct, it is against the arrangements of the War Department, and not against the naval officers; it was so intended, and I think it will generally be so understood. "That the steamboat Izard should have been lost, may be attributed alone to the arrangements of the Government in selecting naval officers to navigate steamboats in narrow channels and rivers, who have been instructed only in navigating ships on the ocean. Had the Izard been navigated by one skilful from long practice in the management of steamboats, it is the opinion of General Read that there would have been no difficulty in ascending the river." It is certainly no complaint against the naval officers who commanded the steamboats to say that they were less skilful in managing them than the common masters of boats, who have made it their profession for years, and acquired skill by long practice. The commander of the Izard had been on board of the boat but a few days when the accident occurred by which the boat was lost. I have not the pleasure of knowing him very well; but for Lieutenants Johnson and Harrison, who commanded the Dade and American, it affords me great pleasure to acknowledge their worth as gentlemen and officers, and they are entitled to my warmest thanks for their zeal and promptitude in the performance of the duties assigned them. If you have any doubt with regard to the language in which I expressed myself, I beg you to be assured, sir, that my complaint was against the War Department, and not the naval officers who commanded the steamboats.

There is another ground on which your censure has been so repeatedly expressed, that I cannot permit it to pass unnoticed, even in this long communication. You charge me with having entered on the campaign without due preparation, and have spoken of the length of time and ample means allowed me for that purpose. Let us first examine the "means" which you say were afforded me, and then I will offer a passing remark on the time allowed me for preparation. What were those ample means of which you have spoken with so much confidence? It is true I was authorized to draw on the different depots, and to require of the Quartermaster's Department such articles as the service might demand; and I have shown that I promptly procured these articles, and that I had advanced abundant stores as near the country held by the enemy as they could be conducted in safety, until I had a sufficient force to move forward and establish other posts. What more could I have done? Surely I need not inform the chief of the War Department that depots of supplies could not be established in the enemy's country, until I had an army to precede them, and open the way for their reception. At what time did I receive a sufficient force for this object? The Tennessee brigade was arriving at this place in detachments, from the 10th until the 15th of September; on the 19th they marched, and on the 1st of October they routed the Indians at Fort Drane, and thence commenced operations against the enemy. The vast time, then, of which you have so repeatedly spoken, is comprehended between the 15th of September and 1st of October. In this time I marched two hundred miles, under the almost vertical sun of Florida, at the most unhealthy season of the year, and placed a large store of supplies in motion for the contemplated depot on the Withlacoochie, where I had "good reason" to believe I would find them, at least by the 16th of October. In order to show that no time previous to the arrival of the Tennessee brigade was, or could have been, available for the purpose of establishing depots for the supply of the army, it is only necessary to take a view of Florida at the time I entered on the duties of my

present station. Your troops had gone into summer quarters; and, from the smallness of their number, could scarcely defend themselves from the enemy, even in the posts which they occupied. The volunteers and militia from the Territory and neighboring States had been disbanded before their term of service had expired, and our frontier inhabitants left to the mercy of the savages. When I assumed command of the army, under the orders of the President, I found the Indians conquerors, and in undisputed possession of the country for more than fifty miles above the boundary. That district, which at the commencement of the war abounded with stock and grain for the subsistence of the army, was now desolated; and the marauding bands of the enemy covered the whole line of frontier for more than two hundred miles. I struggled for four months, with the feeble means I possessed, to defend this line, exposed as it was, and open to the attacks of the enemy. At length the Tennessee troops arrived; and, impelled by duty, as well as the feelings of humanity, I pressed forward without delay to save the frontier from further slaughter. I relieved it from invasion. The war parties of the enemy were either destroyed, or driven beyond the Withlacoochie. I rebuilt Fort Drane; established an important depot on the Withlacoochie; killed thirty-three, and captured twelve of the enemy; explored the country, and discovered the Cove, the stronghold of the enemy; and made all the necessary preparations for a vigorous campaign. All this was done in thirty-four days, notwithstanding your repeated complaints of the length of time I lost, by my disappointment in not finding supplies at the Withlacoochie on my first visit. On the thirty-fourth day after I commenced operations, you issued your orders, in triplicate, superseding me in command of the army; and, although they were sent forth by swift carriers, before they could overtake me the army under my command had made a long and harassing march, had fought three decisive battles, and won three important victories. For these services, sir, I seek no commendation, but they certainly do not merit the censure of the department.

You say I have done great injustice to the President. This, sir, I should deeply deplore; for I would not be unjust, even in redressing my wrongs. I entertain for the President the most sincere regard and respect, and I regret most deeply that the remarks contained in your letter of the 4th of November should have been such as to call forth terms of severity from me; I wrote under feelings of deep excitement, and such as most men would have experienced in my situation. In your letter of the 14th inst., although I conceive you have by no means done me justice, yet you have so far reduced the charges against me as to leave nothing worthy of an investigation before a court of inquiry. I am, therefore, contented to leave the subject to be decided by public opinion, satisfied it will do me justice when the facts are fully disclosed. As you have caused your letter of the 14th ult. to be made public, I shall send a copy of this to a friend in the Senate, with a request that it may also be published among the public documents.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. B. F. Butler,
Acting Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 26, 1837.

SIR: I beg leave to call your attention to the claims of E. J. Wood, for the charter and expenses of the steamboat Minerva while in the service of the United States. This boat was chartered by my order in September last, from my knowledge of the enterprise, experience, and efficiency of Colonel Wood, who volunteered to command her in person, and from the peculiar adaptation of the boat to the navigation of the Withlacoochie river. Every engagement on the part of the commander and charter was fully and amply complied with; and I hazard nothing in saying that this boat rendered more important services to the Government, during her charter, than all the others on this station at that time. It was by the enterprise and perseverance of Colonel Wood that the depot on the Withlacoochie was finally established; and the delay which attended the accomplishment of this important object, in the first instance, was occasioned entirely by the orders of General Jesup and Colonel Lane, by whom the boat was required to make two trips from Apalachicola to Fort Mitchell, in transporting the friendly Indians, before she was permitted to proceed to the Withlacoochie. The effect was not anticipated by General Jesup; but, until the arrival of Colonel Wood at the mouth of the Withlacoochie, no successful attempt was made to ascend the river and establish the depot. Few persons possess more enterprise or public spirit than Colonel Wood. Though possessed of limited resources, he expended in the public service near $12,000. His duties were most faithfully performed, and it is a matter of regret and surprise that the contract on the part of the Government has not been complied with. His accounts were presented for payment, in January last, to Lieutenant Vinton, the quartermaster at this place; who declined paying them, as I understood at the time, from the want of funds for that purpose. They were afterwards forwarded, by the cashier of the Union Bank of Florida, to Major Cross at Washington, by whom they were, as I am advised, referred to the decision of the Secretary of War. I have to request, as an act of justice to this meritorious gentleman, that his accounts may receive your early and favorable consideration. It has been suggested that Colonel Wood's accounts have been suspended in consequence of his having taken possession of the steamboat Minerva belonging to the Government. I am at a loss to conceive how this can impair in any degree the obligation of the Government to comply with its contract. But if this circumstance has produced such an effect, or made an impression unfavorable to Colonel Wood, I beg leave to make a statement of facts, as I understand them to have existed, which cannot fail to place his contract in the most favorable point of view. Colonel Wood was a member of Governor Eaton's staff, and since has been one of mine. As assistant quartermaster, he has performed much valuable service, and incurred considerable expense, without making any charge against the Government for either. His boat was chartered on the Apalachicola to go to the Withlacoochie, and he would have been entitled to the per diem allowed under his charter, until his return to the place at which he was chartered. Instead of this, he was discharged at the Withlacoochie, and made no charge in his account for the time expended in returning from that place. According to the terms of his charter, he was to have the same per diem allowed as that which was given for other boats chartered at that time. The certificate of Lieutenant Vinton, accompanying his accounts, shows that two of the boats chartered by him received $300 a

day, and one of them $400; yet Colonel Wood has charged only $300 per day, although his boat performed more service than all the rest. After he had been discharged at the Withlacoochie, the United States steamboat Lieutenant Izard having been wrecked, dismantled, and entirely abandoned by the Government, with great expense, labor, and difficulty he succeeded in raising and repairing her, in such manner as enabled him to carry her with some hazard to Apalachicola, where she has been thoroughly repaired, and now, as I am informed, is in good order. That the Izard had been dismantled, and entirely abandoned by the Government, I refer you to the report of her commander, Lieutenant Simms of the navy, to Commodore Dallas, which was published, and a copy of which may, I presume, be found in the Navy Department. So little idea was entertained of her ever being appropriated to any useful purpose, that I understand the commanding officer at the Withlacoochie permitted other vessels to take from the wreck whatever they could find above water which was valuable; and no doubt, but for the extraordinary enterprise of Colonel Wood, the Izard would have remained a wreck at the mouth of the Withlacoochie. As a thing deserted, there is no doubt, according to the laws and usages of all civilized nations, Colonel Wood, or any other person, had a right to take possession of and appropriate it to his use. But he was not willing to do this privately: he reported the circumstances to Commodore Dallas, and offered to refer to arbitration his right to the property, or the question of what compensation he should receive for his labor and expenses in recovering, repairing, and restoring the lost property of the Government. All these facts, I believe, can be fully substantiated, and are highly creditable to Colonel Wood. He has a right to rely on the good faith of the Government in complying with its contract, and I hope his accounts may be adjusted and paid without delay.

With regard to the steamboat Izard, I am authorized by Colonel Wood to say that he is still willing to leave the whole matter to be arbitrated by persons who shall be appointed by Commodore Dallas, on the part of the Government, and by himself, and that he will abide by their decision; or, if the Government will pay the per diem allowed under his charter, from the time of his discharge at the Withlacoochie until his arrival at Apalachicola, with a reasonable compensation for his services, either as an agent while superintending the repair of the boat, or as assistant quartermaster in the service of the United States, and refund the expenses which he has actually paid on the boat, that he will deliver her in good order to any person who may be appointed by the Government to receive her.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 29, 1837.

SIR: I beg leave to call your attention to the regulations prescribed by the Government for issuing rations to certain inhabitants of Florida, under the resolution of Congress adopted for that purpose. By the 5th article of those resolutions it is provided that rations may be issued to the suffering inhabitants for one month after their return to their homes; but that, in no instance, should any one be supplied with rations for a longer period than

one month after the termination of Indian hostilities. The greater number of inhabitants who have been driven from their homes have taken shelter at or near the different military posts, where they have been fed by the bounty of the Government; and such has been the unsettled state of the country, and the danger arising from marauding bands of the enemy which still infest the country, that very few of them have been able to return home and plant crops during the present season. In consequence of this, they will be as destitute of the means of support at the close of the year as they were when they first received the generous support of the Government; and, if the existing regulations are carried into effect, after being under arms during the whole war, and making every sacrifice to sustain the country, they will be compelled to abandon it, within one month after the termination of Indian hostilities, for the want of provisions. Many of them have lost all they possessed; and unless they are fed by the Government until they have raised crops to subsist on, they must, from necessity, retire to the neighboring States, where provisions may be purchased by their labor. Such a measure would add greatly to the calamities they have already experienced by the war, and would retard the improvement and settlement of the Territory; but as the resolution of Congress, providing for their support, leaves it at the discretion of the President to furnish the unfortunate sufferers with supplies so long as he may deem it necessary, I have respectfully to request, in behalf of the inhabitants of Florida, that supplies may be furnished to those embraced by the resolution until they shall have been able to raise a crop to subsist on. The adoption of this measure will save hundreds of men, women, and children from extreme suffering and distress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 3, 1837.

SIR: Your last annual report to the Secretary of War was made and published to the world while I was engaged in prosecuting the war against the Semunole Indians. It therefore did not come under my observation until after I had been relieved from the command of the army in Florida; and, subsequently, my extreme ill health, for several months, prevented me from paying that attention to it which it required at my hands. I now avail myself of the right of addressing you on the subject; and, after communicating some intelligence, which you seem not to have received, and after correcting some errors into which you have fallen, I will ask you, from the high place which you fill as an organ of the Government, and as an act of common justice to me and to the volunteers of Florida, to repair the injury and injustice which you have done to them and to me, in the same public and imposing manner in which the wrong has been committed.

In speaking of the battle of the Withlacoochie, on the 31st December, 1835, you make the following remarks: "On the 29th December, General Clinch, with six companies of regular troops, amounting to about two hundred men, proceeded from Fort King towards the Withlacoochie, to attack

the Seminoles, who were in force on the left bank of that river. In this expedition he was joined by Governor Call, with between four hundred and five hundred volunteers of Florida.

"On the 31st December, General Clinch, with the regular troops under his command, crossed the Withlacoochie. He was here attacked by a large body of Indians, and, after a spirited engagement, the Indians were finally defeated, and fled into the hammocks. In this affair, it will appear that the regular troops bore the brunt of the action; out of the two hundred troops who crossed the river with General Clinch, fifty seven were killed or wounded, including four officers. Of the four hundred or five hundred volunteers who had joined General Clinch with a view of aiding in subduing the Indians, only twenty-seven men and three officers took part in the action. Why so many remained out of the action is not explained. Had the same zeal and bravery been displayed by the whole force as was evinced by the regular troops, there is little doubt but that the war would have been terminated with the battle of the Withlacoochie."

Before I proceed to correct the errors in the foregoing statement, it is proper that I should give you the necessary information with regard to the organization of the volunteers, the circumstances under which they entered the service, and some of the incidents preceding and attending the battle.

The war with the Seminoles broke upon the country with the suddenness of light. The army and the people were equally surprised and equally unprepared for the conflict. The regular troops were encamped at Tampa Bay, and at the agency in the heart of the Seminole nation, unprotected by fortifications of any kind; and if the Indians, instead of being diverted by the rich booty which the sparse settlement of the frontier presented, had made the first onset upon the regular troops, few would have survived to tell the melancholy fate of their companions. But, fortunately for them, the savages were even more fond of plunder than of blood. Their first demonstrations were against the settlements in Alachua county, and its unarmed and defenceless inhabitants sustained the first attack. On the 6th of December I received, by express, a petition from the people of Alachua, informing me of their impending danger, and asking for succor. Without a request from General Clinch, and without authority from any one, orders were immediately despatched to the four nearest regiments of my brigade, dispersed over a district of country more than one hundred and fifty miles in extent. They assembled with unparalleled promptness. I invited them to the field, not to make a campaign against the Seminole Indians, but to rescue the defenceless frontier from the grasp of a savage enemy. Temporary, but prompt and immediate relief, until other forces could be ordered by the Government, was all I sought to afford; and I assured them that they should not be detained from their homes more than three or four weeks. Under this pledge, men from all the various pursuits of life suddenly suspended their business, and joined the standard of the volunteers. Near two hundred and fifty were immediately raised. They were generally without arms; the Government had none with which to supply them; and, on my own responsibility, I ordered such to be purchased as the merchants could supply, which consisted principally of small shot-guns, entirely unfit for the field. Supplies of every kind were required; yet, notwithstanding the great extent of country from which the men had to be drawn, and the difficulty of transforming citizens from the pursuits of civil

life to soldiers in the field, by the thirteenth day after I received intelligence of Indian depredations, the troops of Middle Florida, under my command, had been assembled and organized, had performed a march of two hundred miles, and had attacked and destroyed a party of the enemy discovered in plundering and burning a house within half a mile of Micanopy. A detachment of volunteers, under the command of the gallant Captain McLemore, had that morning been despatched, at the request of General Clinch, to protect his provision train, then on the march to Fort Drane, and exposed to the most imminent peril. They performed the duty; protected the supplies for the regular troops, who were almost destitute; and arrived at the burning house on the road just after the Indians had been routed.

Notwithstanding the promptitude with which the troops were raised, and the rapidity of their march, on my arrival I found the whole country overrun and in possession of the enemy. Every house had been abandoned; the Indians were masters of the country; the regular troops were in want of almost every thing; they had not fired a gun at the enemy, and, from the smallness of their numbers, were scarcely able to hold the small space of ground within gun-shot of the pickets hastily constructed for their own preservation.

The volunteers of East Florida, under their brave commander, Colonel Warren, had been raised on the appeal of General Clinch. Many of them were those who had been driven from their homes, and had engaged for no definite time. I overtook and assumed the command of them on the 19th December. The whole force was employed, with great activity, in scouting the country and driving out the enemy, as long as the trace of one could be found. After this duty was performed, there remained yet five or six days unexpired of the time for which the volunteers from East Florida had engaged. I was anxious to employ every moment to the best advantage; and, as the guides spoke with the utmost confidence of finding Indians at the towns on the Withlacoochie, not more than thirty-five miles from Fort Drane, and represented the river as being shallow and fordable at that point, I proposed to General Clinch that a rapid and forced march should be made, to surprise and attack the enemy at the point designated. The suggestion was adopted. On the 27th and 28th December the volunteers were recalled from the scouts, and part of the regular troops were withdrawn from Fort King for the expedition. On the morning of the 29th the whole army marched for the Withlacoochie under the command of General Clinch. The volunteers from Middle Florida, having but three days more to serve, left their wagon-train and all their baggage, carrying with them four days' rations, already prepared for use. They were equipped to move with that rapidity so essential to the success of the enterprise; but the regulars were encumbered with a heavy baggage train, badly appointed and badly conducted; and such was the sloth of the march, that we did not arrive at the Withlacoochie until the morning of the third day, although, upon the plan originally proposed, it might have been accomplished in twenty-four hours. On our arrival, the army was suddenly brought to a halt, and we were greatly surprised at finding a deep and rapid river, presenting a most formidable impediment to our farther advance into the country, instead of the fordable stream over which we might pass with scarce any delay, which the information of the guides led us to expect. On the opposite side an Indian canoe was discovered, and was brought across by two men who swam over for it. The regulars immedi-

ately commenced crossing, and, although they only amounted to about two hundred and sixty, it was near noon before they had effected the passage. In the mean time the volunteers had been engaged in driving over their horses; and a raft of green poles had been constructed, on which some of the saddles were carried over; but it was so heavy, and sunk so deep in the water, that it was of but very little service.

So soon as the regulars were over, the volunteers commenced crossing in the canoe, which, under the best management, would carry only from five to seven persons, two of whom were generally found necessary to carry the boat back again; and it required bailing every trip to prevent it filling with water. It is to be remembered that the volunteers had to take their saddles and saddlebags with them in the canoe, and therefore could not cross with the same rapidity as the regulars, who marched in with their knapsacks on their backs.

Superintending the crossing of the volunteers in person, I perceived that, from the slow progress they made, and from the time previously required by the regulars, unless some other means of accomplishing the passage could be devised, it would consume the whole day. On account of my pledge to them that they should be permitted to return the next day, when their term of service would be completed, I was very solicitous to obviate this delay. I accordingly called the attention of General Clinch, already on the south side of the river, to a collection of dry logs, on the point of an island, situate a short distance below the crossing place, and accessible from that bank of the river by means of a ledge of rocks, and suggested that, if they could be got into the water, they would afford the means of speedily constructing a bridge from the north bank to the island. The suggestion was adopted; and General Clinch and his staff, accompanied by several of the volunteer officers, repaired to the island; and while they were engaged in getting the logs afloat, and I with a party of men engaged in drawing them across by the aid of ropes, I heard rapidly reiterated exclamations from the men in my rear—"the Indians are coming." Hearing no alarm from the opposite side, and supposing the Indians were on the north bank, I commenced forming the line facing to the rear, in order to receive them. In a few moments, however, the Indians made their appearance on the opposite side, just above the crossing place. The position of the line was changed at that point, and the Indians opened their fire upon us across the river; the fire was immediately returned, and they fled. All this occurred before a gun was fired at the regulars. They had advanced beyond the river swamp about a quarter of a mile, and taken a position in a small piece of open ground, surrounded by scrub and hammock, which concealed the enemy and gave them a decided advantage in the contest.

When the action commenced, not more than thirty or forty of the volunteers had crossed the river, of whom a large number were officers. Some of them had swam over, and, being unable to carry their guns with them, were in a defenceless situation until supplied from the opposite side. They marched boldly in to the fight, and behaved with as much intrepidity as any men on that field. They formed a line extending from the river bank nearly to the left flank of the regulars; and it was owing to their position, and the gallantry with which they fought, that the regulars were not surrounded and cut off by the enemy. During the fight, the volunteers continued to cross as fast as possible and join in the action. Many attempted to swim the river, but in every instance, I believe, it was found impossible

to cross in that manner, without getting their arms wet and their ammunition destroyed. At one time I ordered the whole force to mount and charge the river; but it was found impracticable, from the cause just mentioned, and the order was countermanded. Some swam nearly over, carrying their guns above the water, but, from exhaustion, were compelled to drop them.

After the lapse of more than eighteen months, it is not my intention to give an official report of the battle, or to cast reflections upon any one, but to call your attention to certain errors committed in your last annual report to the Secretary of War, and ask that justice may be done to the volunteers of Florida, so unkindly and so unjustly misrepresented. You have said, "of the four or five hundred volunteers who joined General Clinch, with the view of aiding in subduing the Indians, only twenty-seven men and three officers took part in the action;" and you have said, "why so many remained out of the action, is not explained." If the statement I have already given does not afford a sufficient explanation, permit me to say, sir expressly and emphatically, that the volunteers who were not engaged remained out of the action because they found it utterly impossible to get into it. A deep and rapid river separated them alike from the regulars and from the enemy. The river had to be crossed before they could participate in the fight; and the only means provided for crossing were a small raft, found to be of little service, and an Indian canoe. The regular troops, about two hundred and sixty in number, were four or five hours in crossing. The volunteers, with the exception of some officers who crossed with the regulars, had obtained possession of the canoe not more than thirty minutes before the fight commenced; and yet "why so many of them remained out of the action is unexplained."

With an appearance of great accuracy you state that "only twenty seven men and three officers of the Florida volunteers took part in the action." In justice to the gallant officers and men under my command, I am bound to correct this statement, which I am enabled to do from my own personal observation. I crossed the river during the fight myself, and arrived on the field just after the Indians retreated. It was soon decided that the position occupied by the regulars, in double file, in open ground, within point-blank shot of a dense hammock, with the right flank subject to be turned by the enemy, could not be maintained. The troops were accordingly withdrawn into the river swamp, and formed in a curved line, with a detachment of volunteers on the right and left, resting on the river above and below the crossing-place, securing our flanks, and presenting a front which could not be broken. The Indians soon reappeared, and raised the whoop along the whole line, as if resolved to renew the attack; but they found us prepared at all points for the assault. To retire across the river in the presence of the enemy was considered a difficult and hazardous undertaking. General Clinch and myself differed with regard to the mode in which it should be conducted. He proposed to move from the right flank, which rested on the river very near the point at which we must cross; while I recommended a movement from the left flank, wheeling by files to the left, and passing down the rear of the line to the crossing-place, thus covering the men as they retired by those who remained stationary. The General then asked who should conduct the men across—he or myself. He was greatly exhausted from the fatigue of the fight. I tendered my services, and they were accepted; and he immediately after crossed the river, leaving the fate of the army in my hands. More than two hours were spent in constructing

the bridge and recrossing the horses to the north bank. During the whole time, the Indians, by their whoops, gave repeated indications, not only of their presence, but of their intention to renew the attack. At length, having the opposite bank completely manned to cover the retiring line, and the necessary preparations being finished, just before sunset the line commenced retiring. Major Bailey, at the head of about *forty volunteers*, with a firmness and deliberation which would have done honor to the hardiest veterans, led the way, followed by the regular battalion; and the rear was brought up by Lieutenant Colonel Mills with a command of *forty-one volunteers*. The success of the movement depended on the coolness and firmness with which it was executed, and a better specimen of deliberate courage was never exhibited on any occasion. Colonel Mills was the last to cross, and before he left the bank the Indians rushed down on the opposite side. You will thus perceive, sir, the injustice done the volunteers by saying that "only twenty-seven of the men took part in the battle."

But the injustice done the officers is still more apparent. You have stated (on what authority I know not) that but three of them participated in the engagement. Justice demands not only that this charge should be repelled, but that the names of those brave and patriotic officers who fought so gallantly on that occasion should be recorded. Three of them, Colonel Warren, Colonel Read, and Major Cooper, were wounded—the first and the last dangerously. Colonel Parkhill, Lieutenant Colonel Mills, Major Bailey, Major Welford, Major Gamble, Captain Fisher, Captain Parish, Captain Ross, Lieutenant Hunter, Lieutenant Stewart, Lieutenant Wilder, Lieutenant Dell, Lieutenant Floyd, Lieutenant Chaires, and others whose names are not now recollected, crossed the river before or during the action, and were among the foremost and bravest in the conflict.

I have yet to mention another important service performed by the volunteers on that occasion, which saved the regulars from havoc and slaughter. It was by them, under the superintendence of Captain Wyatt, of Middle Florida, that the bridge of logs was constructed, which enabled the troops to retire with safety in the presence of the enemy. Had there been no other means of recrossing provided but the canoe, no one will pretend to say that the movement could have been performed without great loss.

I am not disposed to disparage the merit of the officers and soldiers of the regular army. They fought bravely, and sustained themselves nobly. But I will not permit unjust reflections to be cast upon the volunteers of Florida. I trust, sir, the day may never come when, to sustain the fame of your army, it shall be necessary to detract from the services and merits of the patriotic but undisciplined citizens, who may volunteer their aid to the country in the hour of peril and necessity.

You have further observed, sir, "had the same zeal and bravery been displayed by the whole force as was evinced by the regular troops, there is but little doubt that the war would have been terminated with the battle of the Withlacoochie." I have endeavored to show, sir, that there was no deficiency of either zeal or bravery among the volunteer officers or men on that occasion. I have shown, and am able to prove to the world, that the greater number of them "remained out of the action" because they could not cross the river to participate in it. I have shown that they did all that could be done by troops in their situation. After so many unsuccessful attempts to subdue the Indians—after the failure of three of your most distinguished major generals to accomplish that object—after the united but un-

successful efforts of your army, and the best troops of the patriotic States, which have engaged in the war during a period of more than eighteen months—it is for you to say whether you do not owe it to yourself, to the army, and to the volunteers of Florida, to retract the assertion that less than four hundred undisciplined volunteers from Florida could, in one day, have accomplished that which has baffled the whole power of the Government for almost two years, and disappointed the expectations of the best generals in our service. There was one event known to you at the time you made your report to the Secretary of War, which should have saved you from the commission of this error, and saved the volunteers from the unjust reproach which has been cast upon them. You were fully apprized that the veteran and gallant General Gaines, with an army of about twelve hundred regulars and volunteers, of undoubted zeal and bravery, soon after met the same enemy on almost the same ground; that they surrounded him in a fortified encampment, and fought with unabated fury; and were met with distinguished courage and fortitude for five days and nights; and that General Gaines was finally relieved by General Clinch, who marched to his assistance with five hundred men, many of whom were the same Florida volunteers whom you have treated with so much injustice in your official report. With a knowledge of these facts, your remarks must be considered gratuitous and most extraordinary by every impartial observer.

I have endeavored to lay before you, sir, a statement of the circumstances under which the expedition was undertaken, and of such incidents connected with the battle of the Withlacoochie as will enable you to repair the injury you have done to the brave and patriotic volunteers of Florida. I trust, sir, that redress will be as ample as the injury has been unmerited. Truth, justice, and the magnanimity of the commander-in-chief of the army, all conspire to demand it.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major General MACOMB,
Commander-in-chief of the army of the United States.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 23, 1837.

SIR: A number of gentlemen in Kentucky are desirous of raising a brigade of mounted volunteers, for six months, to serve in the next campaign against the Seminole Indians; and application has been made to me to receive them and to command them in person. If not inconsistent with the views of the department, I should be gratified to receive authority for that purpose. This corps would be composed of the pride and chivalry of the State, and I doubt not would render most important services.

Should the Government approve of the measure, I have to request that I may be immediately advised of its determination; and, in order to save time, I have to request further, that a copy of the letter of advice to me may be forwarded to Colonel James P. Walker, Russellville, Kentucky.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 26, 1837.

SIR: Having corresponded with the Paymaster General for the last six months, without producing the desired effect, I am now under the necessity of addressing you on the subject of the unsatisfied claims against the Pay Department in Middle and West Florida.

There are many companies, both militia and volunteers, which entered the service more than twelve months since, and, notwithstanding my repeated and urgent solicitations to the Paymaster General, have not yet been paid. In addition to these, a considerable force has been employed, at different times since the 1st of February last, in hunting out the fugitive Creeks, and in defending the frontier from the invasion of the Seminoles; all of whom are yet unpaid. This is a grievance which has justly occasioned much complaint; and I have therefore earnestly, but respectfully, to request that a paymaster may be ordered without delay to proceed to this place and pay off all the claims against that department.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *October* 14, 1837.

SIR: Although I have not had the honor of receiving an answer to my letter of August last, on the subject of the order suspending the issue of provisions to the suffering inhabitants of Florida after the 1st day of October, yet I presume some modification of that order has taken place by the instructions of the Department of War.

I have received a letter from Major Jones, the quartermaster stationed on the Suwanee frontier, from which the following is an extract:

"I presume your excellency has been furnished with a copy of the Secretary of War's instructions, extending the issue of rations to the suffering inhabitants after the 1st of October in many cases, particularly to the members of families under fourteen years, of those in service, and indigent persons, &c."

So far as it relates to East Florida, it was not necessary that I should have been furnished with a copy of those instructions, as General Jesup will, no doubt, with great promptness, cause them to be executed for the relief of the inhabitants of that section of country. But in West Florida, at a point too remote to receive the necessary attention from General Jesup, there are two counties (those of Washington and Walton) which I advised you, in my former letters on the subject, were invaded in February last by the fugitive Creek Indians, and the inhabitants have been exposed to as much danger, and have suffered as much in the loss of life and property, as those on the eastern frontier. The population is sparse, and in indigent circumstances, having no other means of living but those afforded by their stock of cattle and the product of their small plantations. The greater number of those capable of bearing arms have been engaged in offensive or defensive operations against the Indians since their first appearance in the country, and are still so engaged; for, although a number of prisoners have been taken, and many warriors have been killed in the numerous skirmishes which

have taken place, bands of the enemy still continue to infest the country, and keep the inhabitants in a state of danger and alarm. The people have been unable to cultivate their lands; hence they have made no crops, and are destitute of bread, and their cattle have been greatly destroyed by the Indians. Those who have been engaged in the service for the last nine months have not received a cent of pay, and, from the extreme necessity produced by the order suspending the issue of supplies after the 1st October, they are compelled to sell their claims against the Government for the pay so long due them, at any discount which the extortionate may demand, in order to buy bread for their families. Even this resource is rendered less available from the circumstance that there are no provisions to sell in that part of the country, and they are compelled to procure them from a distance. This state of things, sir, cannot long be endured; and if they are not supported by the Government to some extent, until they can make a crop, they must abandon the country to the enemy. Humanity requires that they should be informed of their fate as early as possible, to avoid a protraction of their sufferings by remaining in their present situation without the hope of relief. I have to request, sir, that I may be immediately advised of the determination of the Government on this important subject. Presuming, from the letter of Major Jones, above referred to, that some relief has been ordered by the department, I have, on my own responsibility, ordered the quartermaster general of the Florida militia, as a temporary relief to the sufferers, to issue provisions to such persons as are designated in the extract from the letter of Major Jones. I hope this measure may meet with your approbation; but, if not, I shall meet the responsibility I have incurred without regret, as it was assumed in the cause of humanity.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *October* 27, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, with its accompanying documents.

I regret very much indeed, sir, to be under the necessity of giving you further trouble with regard to the non-payment of the Florida troops; but it is a duty I owe to them and to myself, to place the subject before you in its proper light, entertaining no doubt you will cause justice to be done whenever you are correctly informed.

The information given you by the Paymaster General, so far from giving the intelligence you require, is calculated to produce the most erroneous conclusion. Why he did not furnish you with copies of that part of my correspondence with him which was necessary to enable you to understand the subject correctly, I will not pretend to say; but as he has failed to do so, I beg leave respectfully to refer you to the enclosed copies of my letters to him, dated the 26th July and 21st of August, to which I invite your particular attention. It was not until I had failed to receive an answer to the last, that I troubled you with the subject in my letter of the 26th ultimo. These copies will furnish you, at least in part, with the information you sought to obtain from the Paymaster General. They will inform you

that the troops in question were ordered into service by me for the defence of the frontier; they will show the necessity which existed for the order; they will explain the reason why the troops were not regularly mustered; and they exhibit in its true light the conduct of paymaster Forsyth, who is perhaps most to be censured for the delay which has taken place in the payment of the Florida troops. With regard to the necessity of sending the muster-rolls to Washington before the troops are paid, as I conceive there is no doubtful point involved in the case, I had considered this formality waived by the letter of the Paymaster General, dated the 8th of July, of which the following is an extract: "If there are no doubtful points to be settled by the accounting officers, as you seem to think, the payment can be made on the rolls retained; but if there are, it will certainly save time to have the rolls placed in their hands as soon as practicable." I am advised of no doubtful point in the case. I will, however, for your information, state the facts; and if there should be, I will, as far as practicable, conform to the rules of the department. All the troops in question were ordered into service, by me as the Governor of the Territory, and they have served either in the campaign against the Indians, or in defending the frontier against invasion. Under the laws of the Territory, as well as those of the United States, I am fully authorized to give such orders. The frontier of Middle Florida has been harassed and annoyed by the Seminole Indians during the whole war, and two counties of West Florida have been invaded by the fugitive Creeks since February last. For neither of those districts has General Jesup been able to give the necessary protection, and I have been compelled to defend them with troops levied for that purpose. Not having had any regular officer under my command, I have been unable to have the companies regularly mustered. I have frequently applied to General Jesup for an officer to perform this duty, and he has as often promised to send one, but, owing to the want of officers, he has been unable to do so. I hope, however, by the time the paymaster arrives, this duty will have been performed. Hitherto I know it has not been necessary to send the muster rolls to the Paymaster General before the troops were paid. I speak with confidence on the subject, because I know it has not been the practice. The troops that entered the service last winter, both in East and Middle Florida, were ordered out by me. In the east they have been promptly paid; while in the middle district, with the exception of Myrick's and Evans's companies, none have been paid for more than twelve months. Many who are poor have suffered by the delay, and not a few have sold their claims, from necessity, for whatever they could get. Every thing in my power has been done to procure the payment of these troops, but without effect. I have now placed you in possession of all the facts, and I respectfully ask of you the application of the proper remedy to correct the evil complained of.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 11, 1837.

SIR: Paymaster Mapes, of the United States army, has arrived at this place for the purpose of paying the troops of Middle and West Florida.

He has furnished me with an extract from the instructions of the Paymaster General, from which he informs me he feels much embarrassment in proceeding with the duties required of him. The following is the extract referred to: "Care should be taken that none but volunteers and militia called out by proper authority from the Government of the United States, and duly mustered in and out of service, be paid by you." The Paymaster General was fully informed by me that all the troops of Middle and West Florida, entitled to pay, were ordered into service by me, as the Executive of the Territory. If there is to be a distinction taken between my authority in ordering out the militia for the defence of the frontier, and the "proper authority from the Government of the United States," and none are to be paid but such as have been ordered into service by the latter authority, then the Paymaster General has sent his subordinate officer on an idle mission. There appears, also, to be some difficulty about the muster of the men in and out of service. The Paymaster General has been informed that, with few exceptions, these troops entered the service without being mustered in, and were discharged without being mustered out, because there was no regular officer under my command to perform that duty. It is now proposed to remedy this irregularity, as has been often done in this Territory and elsewhere, by a muster of the men, although some of them have been discharged more than twelve months. When this is done, the paymaster may not consider them as having been "duly mustered," but it is the only muster which can ever take place; and if it should be deemed insufficient, I wish to be informed, in order that an early application may be made to Congress for redress. But I hope, sir, this may not be necessary; and I have the utmost confidence in the belief that you will order to be done that which, from the nature of the case, you may believe to be just and proper. I have to request, sir, that such an order may be given, that the paymaster and the mustering officer, (Lieutenant Vinton, of the United States army,) may be enabled, without delay, to perform the duty assigned them.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *January* 17, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, accompanied with a report of the Paymaster General on the subject of the pay due from the United States to the militia and volunteers of Middle and West Florida. I regret exceedingly to find, sir, that further and unexpected delay has been produced in the payment of these troops. My letters to the Paymaster General, of the 25th of July and 21st of August, must have informed him that the troops in question were ordered into service by me; and the same information was expressly and distinctly communicated to you in my letter of the 27th of October. In reply to that letter, on the 16th day of November, you informed me that a paymaster had been ordered to Florida for the purpose of paying all troops legally entitled to compensation from the United States, and observed, "I trust your excellency will experience no further difficulty upon the subject." On receiving that letter, I had a right to suppose that no further embarrassment would

be presented. I was, therefore, greatly surprised, on the arrival of the paymaster, to find him fettered by the instructions of the Paymaster General in such a manner as to prevent him from performing the very duties you had advised me he had been sent to Florida to discharge.

On the 11th of December I addressed you on the subject of these instructions, and am now informed by your answer, dated on the 30th ultimo, that, from the information *now* in the possession of the department, it appears that the troops, whose payment I seek to effect, were called out by me subsequently to the period when I ceased to command the army in Florida: "full explanation of the necessity and manner of calling these troops into the service is, therefore, necessary; and this will be immediately asked of General Jesup." This opinion, so entirely at variance with that contained in your letter of the 16th of November, in which you inform me that a paymaster had been ordered to Florida with instructions to pay all troops legally entitled, &c., and that you trusted I would "have no further difficulty on the subject," appears to have been formed on the report of the Paymaster General, containing an extract from my letter to you of the 27th of October, which you had previously answered in the most satisfactory manner. It is somewhat remarkable, sir, that the information contained in that letter, when read by you, and when extracted by the Paymaster General, should have produced such opposite and contradictory results. The language in which I addressed myself was too plain and comprehensive to admit of doubt. It stated, in express terms, that those troops had been ordered into service by me; and when you read my letter, you must have understood my meaning as perfectly as you did when you read the extract from it furnished by the Paymaster General. And yet, after receiving the extract, you say, "from information now in possession of the department, it appears," &c.; as though the information had not been in your possession before that time. This furnishes additional proof of the little attention which has been paid to the repeated solicitations I have presented to you and the Paymaster General for the payment of these troops in my correspondence, commencing on the 9th day of May last, and continued until the present time.

Permit me to offer a remark on that part of your letter in which you say that you will ask of General Jesup full explanation of the necessity which existed for my ordering these troops into service. I entertain for General Jesup the highest respect, and the best relations have subsisted between us during the whole period of his command in Florida; but, sir, so long as I am charged with the executive authority of Florida—so long as the laws of this Territory require me, in cases of invasion or insurrection, to order out the militia—so long as the army fails to give the necessary protection, and our citizens are murdered in their own dwellings by the savages, which has frequently been the case under your administration of the War Department—I shall not hesitate to perform my duty, by ordering the militia into service. And I shall never, in such cases, wait to consult the commander of your army, at the distance of two or three hundred miles from the scene where the troops are required, before I order them into service to save the frontier from destruction.

My letters to you, to General Jesup, and to the Paymaster General, have shown the existence of the necessity under which these troops were ordered into service. In my letter to the Paymaster General, dated 25th of July last, when urging the payment of these troops, I observed, "that Middle Florida,

with a frontier of more than two hundred miles, has defended herself during the whole war, and, with the exception of a few months last summer, (1836,) there has scarcely been a regular soldier encamped within her limits." On the 21st of August I addressed him again on the same subject, and observed, "I have been compelled to defend Middle Florida against the ravages of the Seminoles, and West Florida against the fugitive Creeks, without the aid of the Government; not having even so much as a regular officer to muster the men into service." Copies of each of these letters were forwarded to you in October last. On the 23d of August I addressed you in the following terms: "You are aware that the fugitive Creek Indians, for the last six months, have greatly harassed and destroyed a number of the settlements in West Florida. Many of the inhabitants have been driven from their homes, with the entire loss of their means of subsistence; and, to relieve their distress, I have ordered supplies to be furnished them, under the resolution of Congress and the regulations of the War Department. It was necessary for me to assume this responsibility, owing to the distance of the scene from the operations of General Jesup in East Florida, and his consequent inability to attend to it. The local militia have been constantly under arms, and a number of skirmishes have taken place with the Indians, in which the latter have always been routed; but, as the country affords convenient hiding places in every neighborhood, it is not yet relieved from these troublesome visiters, and the people are unable to return in safety to their homes. Almost every male of that population capable of bearing arms is in the service of the United States, engaged in searching for and driving out the Indians."

On the 14th of October, not having received an answer to the letter of which the foregoing is an extract, I wrote you again on the same subject, and then stated: "In West Florida, at a point too remote to receive the necessary attention from General Jesup, there are two counties (those of Washington and Walton) which I advised you, in my former letters on the subject, were invaded in February last by the fugitive Creek Indians, and the inhabitants have been exposed to as much danger, and have suffered as much in the loss of life and property, as those on the eastern frontier. The population is sparse, and generally in indigent circumstances; having no other means of living but those afforded by their stock of cattle and the product of their small plantations. The greater number of those capable of bearing arms have been engaged in offensive or defensive operations against the Indians since their first appearance in the country, and are still so engaged; for, although a number of prisoners have been taken, and many warriors have been killed in the numerous skirmishes which have taken place, bands of the enemy still continue to infest the country, and keep the inhabitants in a state of danger and alarm. The people have been unable to cultivate their lands; hence they have made no crops, and are destitute of bread, and their cattle have been greatly destroyed by the Indians. Those who have been engaged in the service for the last nine months have not received a cent of pay; and, from the extreme necessity produced by the order suspending the issue of supplies after the 1st of October, they are compelled to sell their claims against the Government for the pay so long due them, at any discount which the extortionate may demand, in order to buy bread for their families." The information thus communicated to you ought, I should have supposed, to have satisfied you of the necessity which required me to order troops into service. If it was not sufficiently explicit, official courtesy

at least required that further explanation should have been asked of me, instead of applying to General Jesup, who has at all times been too far removed from the frontier of Middle and West Florida to give the information required, even if it were proper to consult him with regard to the manner in which my duties have been performed. I have felt no disposition to interfere with the military arrangements of the Government; and if the necessary protection were afforded to the frontier, I should not order men into service.

If I have violated the trust and confidence reposed in me by the President of the United States—if I have ordered troops improperly and unnecessarily into service—I am responsible to him, on my commission. But I cannot believe that he, or that Congress, will deny to the men who have served under my orders, in defending the frontier from massacre, the compensation to which they are justly entitled. After I was relieved from the command of the army, I ordered a strong force into service in East and Middle Florida for the protection of the frontier. That the measure was necessary and proper, was fully proven by the fact, that, subsequent to the date of the order, a number of persons, and, in some instances, whole families, were murdered by the savages. In my letter of the 27th of October I informed you that the troops of East Florida ordered into service at that time were promptly paid, without the formality of sending the muster-rolls to the Paymaster General before payment, while those in Middle Florida are still unpaid. That letter was referred by you to the Paymaster General; and in his report on it, dated the 28th of December, 1837, he says: "I have no knowledge of any troops serving under precisely the same circumstances that have been paid, except those provided for in the second section of the act of May 28th, 1836." It was certainly not very courteous, when I had stated the fact, for the Paymaster General, after quoting my language in his report, to say he had no knowledge of such a case; for, if he did not know it before, my letter must have informed him; and if he was not satisfied with its accuracy, he had the means of applying an unerring test—the muster-rolls on which the East Florida troops were paid. One moment's reflection, sir, would have convinced both you and the Paymaster General that the troops ordered into service by me during the last winter could not have been paid under the second section of the act of the 28th of May, 1836, for the very reason stated by the Paymaster General when speaking of the payment of the troops in Middle and West Florida, because the provisions of that act were retrospective. But, sir, they were paid under the provisions of the act of the 19th of March, 1836, which are just as applicable to the troops of Middle and West Florida as to those of the East. That act is both prospective and retrospective. It embraces in its prospective operation all volunteer or militia corps which have been in the service of the United States since its passage, no matter by whom ordered into service; and is confined, in its retrospective operation (provided for in the sixth section) to those troops only which were ordered into service by the commanding general or governors of States and of the Territory of Florida, under authority of the War Department. I do not, therefore, perceive the propriety of the remark contained in your letter of the 30th instant, in which you say: "The appropriation law, which provides the only funds out of which a payment of this kind could be made, restricts the application of the money to such troops only as have been called out by the commanding general in Florida, or under the express authority of the President of the United

States." And if your construction of the law be correct, why call on General Jesup, or any other person, for a full explanation of the necessity and manner of calling these troops into service? for, no matter however dire may have been the necessity, or however *punctilious* the formality with which they were raised, not having had that "*express authority* from the President of the United States," the troops ordered into service by me, subsequent to my being relieved in command of the army, could not be paid without further legislation on the subject. But, with due respect for your opinion, permit me to say that I find no such restriction in the law; nor do I believe that Congress, with a true knowledge of the situation of this Territory for the last two years, would have incorporated such a provision in its enactments. The Executive of the Territory, as the commander-in-chief of the militia, has, and from necessity must have, authority to call troops into service, at his discretion, to defend the frontier settlements whenever they are in danger. This is an authority which has always been exercised, and has never been denied to any Territorial Governor of the United States. And I believe the present is the first and only instance in which an objection has been made to paying troops thus ordered into service. Should I now "fail, after this full explanation," as I have hitherto done in my applications to you for the payment of the troops in question, I shall lose no time in addressing myself to another and a higher tribunal; and I shall not cease in my efforts until I have procured for the volunteers and militia of Florida the compensation to which they are justly entitled for their valuable services.

I have at this time near two hundred men in service, employed in protecting the frontier against the Seminoles, in pursuing the Creek Indians, and in guarding the prisoners they have captured—about ninety in number; and I have this morning been informed by express, that, during the last night, the Indians, within twenty miles of this place, attacked three different families, each of which lost some of its members, with the destruction of their houses and other property. Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received on this subject about daylight this morning.

Troops are already on their march in pursuit of the savages. They have been promptly and hastily assembled; I have not waited to have them "*regularly mustered into service;*" I have not waited to consult General Jesup, at the distance of three hundred miles; but, acting on my own responsibility, I have ordered out additional troops to protect the helpless women and children from the midnight ravages of a savage enemy. Although you may hereafter call on General Jesup for a "*full explanation of the necessity and manner*" of calling these troops into service, I cannot, at the present crisis, pause in the discharge of my duty to observe that formality. When helpless females and lisping infants are perishing in the flames of their own dwellings, duty requires of me prompt and decisive action; and God and my country will, I trust, sustain me in the course I have pursued.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 12, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, in which you inform me of the measures recently adopted by the War Department for the defence of the frontier of Middle Florida. It will afford me great pleasure to comply with the directions of the President to furnish such militia force as may be required by the officer placed in command of the frontier, for the protection of its inhabitants. This I have ever done, on the requisition of General Jesup; and I should do injustice to that valuable officer were I not to acknowledge the zealous efforts he has at all times made (with the means he possessed) to defend our citizens from the attacks of the enemy. At my request, he recently ordered to St. Mark's six companies of the 6th regiment of infantry, which are now on duty in Middle Florida. This force is principally employed against the Creek Indians, who, after having surrendered and agreed upon a day for their embarcation for the west, suddenly abandoned their camp at night, and fled precipitately, leaving most of their baggage behind them. They were nominally in charge of a guard of ten men, which was all the force I had to control them. About thirty of the women and children still remain in camp, and appear to be perfectly satisfied. They inform me that the others were induced to fly, from an apprehension created by some designing white men that it was my intention to destroy the men and confine the women in chains. The chief, at his departure, avowed his determination to make his way to the Seminoles; and they retreated in that direction. But the necessary preparations have been made to intercept them, and I entertain hopes that they may be captured or destroyed. Their flight created great apprehension among the neighboring inhabitants, and I was under the necessity of ordering out a portion of the militia for their protection. They were all discharged, however, in a few days, with the exception of two detachments, which are still in service. One of them is employed in guarding the pass in the Ocklockney river, to prevent the escape of the Creeks to the east; and the other in guarding the prisoners, and in preventing an intercourse between the Creeks and the Apalachicola Indians, some of whom fled with the Creeks. They are without an agent, and, finding them greatly excited, I deemed it most prudent to receive a few of the warriors into service, with a small detachment of white men, whom I placed there to give confidence to the timid and restrain the vicious. I adopted this course after a personal examination of the situation of these Indians, and from a conviction of its necessity; there being no officer or troops of the Government near enough to produce any effect in that quarter. I hope the measure will be approved by the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Captain S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 20, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose you, herewith, copies of letters which I have just received from many highly respectable citizens of West Florida, informing me of the re-appearance of the Indians in that quarter. Whether they are a part of those who lately escaped from the Apalachicola river, or

whether it is a different party, which has more recently arrived from Alabama, I am unable to decide. But I am disposed to believe they are of the latter, as the former were traced, in the opposite direction, as far east as the Ocklockney river, in the neighborhood of which it is believed they still are. You will perceive, from the enclosed documents, that the appearance of an enemy in that sparsely-populated district has given rise to much excitement among the people, and that they, as it is natural they should do, have called on the Executive for protection. The laws of the Territory, in such cases, have made it my duty to order out the militia for their defence. This duty I have hitherto performed whenever the occasion has required it; and, notwithstanding the embarrassment which has resulted to me and the troops I have employed, by the delay of the Government in paying them for services rendered under my orders, I should not now hesitate in pursuing the same course, if I had the means of supplying them with forage and provisions. But this I find impossible. That section of country which is threatened with danger was, during the last summer, overrun by the Creek Indians. The inhabitants were unable to cultivate their plantations, and the country is, in consequence, destitute of supplies. I should call on the assistant quartermaster of the United States army at this place to furnish the necessary articles, as he has done heretofore on all similar occasions for the last eighteen months; but he has recently informed me he declines furnishing any thing on my requisition for the Territorial troops not regularly mustered into the service of the United States. On the occasion alluded to, I tendered the command of the troops I had raised to Major Dearborn, the senior officer of the United States army in Middle Florida. He declined accepting of them, on the ground that he had no authority to do so. I then requested him to order the assistant quartermaster to furnish them with the necessary supplies. This he also declined doing, for the same reason; and I have been compelled to purchase supplies for these troops on my own credit and that of the Territory, while there is a United States quartermaster and a public depot of stores within twenty miles of the place where they are required. I am aware, sir, that the payment or non payment for these supplies by the Government may hereafter be made a grand question; but, so long as my private fortune will enable me to save a single family from destruction, it shall be freely expended. This, however, is too limited to be of much avail; and, in the case in which I am now called on for protection, when the whole resources of the country have been exhausted, I regret that I can do no more than report the circumstances to the proper department of the Government.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Captain SAMUEL COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

Copies of the documents referred to in the letter of Governor Call of the 20th May, 1838, addressed to the Acting Secretary of War.

SIR: A statement was made to us, the settlers of Holmes Valley and the adjoining settlements at the Choctawhatchee river, by one of our neighbors, named S. A. Posey, that when he was working in the field at Colonel

Bryan's ferry, on the Choctawhatchee, on the 14th of May, as he happened to go down to the ferry flat to drink, he saw, when he rose from the water, on the opposite side, a canoe coming out of a cut-off that leads from the Choctawhatchee river into a stagnant water called the Dead river. Said canoe was occupied by three Indians, two of whom were just dropping down on their knees to take aim at him. Seeing this, he jumped out of the flat and into a ditch; in the same moment, two of the savages fired at him, and, perhaps, but the tottering of the canoe saved his life. Both missed him, but one of them shot a rifle-ball through his hat, and through a silk handkerchief, which happened to be in it. His position in the ditch, and the advancing of the canoe, gave him now a fair chance to use his rifle. He fired, and saw one of the savages drop down in the canoe; and, as he did not see him rise any more, he thinks him to be killed. The third Indian tried to shoot him, but his gun continued snapping. Meanwhile he had loaded his gun again, and shot at the second Indian; but he is not sure whether he hit him or not. During this time the savages were going back to the cut-off as fast as they could; but before they were out of sight, he sent another rifle ball after them, and he thinks that he hit the hindermost of them in his shoulders. He states further, that after they had fired at him, they shouted immediately in that horrible manner which is so well known as a sign of their hostility; and, after that, all the halloing he heard was at the time the first gun fired again, which was answered by two volleys on the other side of the river.

As we know the said Posey to be an industrious man, whose fortune depends on the crop he is trying to make in said field for the support of his family; and after scrupulously examining all the circumstances; and, finally, after the certifying of this statement by his oath, we cannot but believe it to be true. Moreover, six Indians have been seen a week ago below the Cow-ford, and, for the last two or three weeks, the gun-firing of the Indians is heard almost every day by many of our neighbors. After all this, we cannot but believe—nay, but to be finally convinced—that the Indians are close to our settlements, and that they have commenced open hostility without any provocation from our side. Thus we see our lives and property again at jeopardy, and are urged by necessity to claim and ask for that protection which the General Government promises to all its citizens, and which you, General, in the special government of this Territory, have so readily and willingly bestowed whenever it was called for. You well know, sir, that neither cowardice nor pusillanimity can be the motive of our request, as we always were ready to follow your call, as well in the campaign against the Seminole nation as in that of our own frontiers against the hostile Creeks last year. But we are in imminent danger of losing our crops again; for if we have to go a-scouting every day, which is necessary to protect the lives of our wives and children, who will work in the field and make the crops? if we are compelled to leave the settlements, who will give us support for this and the next year? for you know yourself, sir, that none of us made a sufficient crop last year, except a few individuals who had hands to work for them. With great anxiety, but assurance of your known magnanimity, we look for immediate help.

Signed on the 15th day of May, 1838, by the settlers of Holmes Valley and adjoining settlements.

Names of the settlers.

J. B. Lassetter	W. Tabor
Matthew Spikes	John Regiter
Brenley Lassetter	Silvester R. Cotes
John Miller	Lewis H. Miller
Henry F. Boit	A. W. Miller
Jesse C. Smith	John W. V. Long
John W. Crook	H. A. Bright
James Wise	James Bright
Washington Wood	Levi F. Miller
W. H. Carpenter	Daniel Williams.

General Call,
Governor of the Territory of Florida.

Territory of Florida, } *ss.*
Washington county, }

Personally came before me, the undersigned, a justice of the peace for said county, S. A. Posey, who made oath that the contents of the preceding part of the within article is just and true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

LEVI F. MILLER, *J. P.*

S. H. POSEY, his x mark.

Vallambrosa, *May* 14, 1838.

Dear Sir: I have this moment received information that an attack was made this morning about nine o'clock, by the Indians, on a man by the name of Posey, at Bryan's ferry, on the Choctawhatchee river, about five miles from this place. This man had gone to the river to get water; he discovered three Indians in a canoe; he ran, on discovering them; they fired two guns at him; one ball passed through his hat, just missing his head; he got into a gulley in the bank, and returned their fire, and thinks he either killed or wounded two of them; he then made his escape to give the alarm. I expect that the Indians have all returned to this place. I have also heard that six Indians were seen last week at the mouth of the river. I was lately informed that the Seminole war was brought nearly to a close. If so, would not the Secretary of War be induced to send a regiment to West Florida for our protection? If something is not shortly done, we shall all be obliged to abandon this section of Florida.

With esteem and respect, I am, your obedient servant,

JAMES BRIGHT.

His Excellency R. K. Call, Esq.

N. B.—My informant, Jesse B. Lassetter, has no doubt of the correctness of the above report, as he heard the guns, and saw the man in half an hour after it happened. J. B.

WASHINGTON, *October* 4, 1838.

SIR: I was pleased to learn, from the conversation I had the honor of holding with you this morning, that you had already anticipated the proposition I then offered for re-establishing the inhabitants of Florida who have been driven from their homes by the Indians. There is every disposition on the part of that portion of our people to return to the cultivation of the fields, from which they have been so long banished, and to contribute every thing in their power in aid both of the offensive and defensive measures of the Government against the common enemy. During the present year, many of them, at the hazard of their lives, and all they had left from the ravages of the enemy, returned to their former places of residence and planted their crops; but, after they were more than half made, they were compelled to retire before the enemy, and abandon the fruits of their labor. This, however, would not have occurred under a proper military organization, which would have given mutual aid and protection to each settler. The quantity of land prepared for cultivation on the frontier, particularly in the counties of Columbia and Alachua, including the plantations of the large proprietors, which have been abandoned, (and will not, probably, be re-occupied and cultivated by slaves during the continuance of the war,) is sufficient to afford employment and support for a number of men, not only adequate for their own defence, but to the protection of the frontier. By occupying this section of the country, the Indians would be driven within more narrow limits, and would be greatly discouraged by seeing that which they have conquered restored to the possession of the white man. Another advantage which would result to the Government from pursuing this measure, would be the quantity of grain which would be raised in this country, convenient to the seat of war, in the event of another campaign, and the subsistence which would be thus furnished for an increased emigration during another year. For the purpose of carrying this plan into execution, I propose that General Hernandez, or such other officer of the Florida militia as may be designated for that service, be authorized, under the orders and direction of the commanding general, to receive into the service of the United States, for twelve months, unless sooner discharged, such able bodied men (not to exceed a brigade) in East Florida, as may enrol themselves, including the present frontier settlers, and such as have been driven from their homes, or others who are willing to locate themselves on the line of defence. Thus the owners of plantations, if they think proper to reoccupy them, shall be reinstated in possession; and those who have none shall be located on any waste or unappropriated land which may be prepared for cultivation. That the whole force, thus organized, shall be mustered into the service of the United States; shall be entitled to receive the pay, rations, and forage, usually allowed to officers and men in the service of the Government; and shall constitute a defence for the frontier from the Atlantic to the Suwanee river, and as far south as the Withlacoochie and New river, on the sea-board. That all the said force which can at any time be spared from military operations, within the limits here prescribed, shall be kept constantly engaged in cultivating corn, and other articles of subsistence. That, while engaged in this service, they shall be divided into companies, or such detachments as will be sufficient to give the security against the attacks of the enemy, and shall rendezvous and encamp at such places along the line of frontier as may be designated by the commanding general, or the immediate commanding officer, whenever it may be deemed un-

safe for them to remain at their homes. That the labor of cultivation, and the duties of the field, shall be distributed as nearly as possible equally among the different individuals, and each shall have, as far as possible, the benefit of his own labor; but that they shall, at all times, whether engaged in military service or in cultivation, be subject to the orders of the superior in office, and be governed by the rules and articles of war. Such a force as this, organized on the plan proposed, would soon restore the population which has been driven from the country, and would form a powerful auxiliary to the army employed in prosecuting the war.

For the defence of the frontier of Middle Florida, extending from the Suwanee river to the Ocklockney, I propose the organization of a battalion on the same principle, to consist of four hundred mounted men, under the command of a field officer; this force would be sufficient, and should be required, to drive out and to keep the Indians entirely beyond the Suwanee. This section of country being too remote from the scene of active operations to enable the commanding general to give it the attention and protection which it has and must require so long as hostilities continue, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of continuing an officer of rank of the United States army in command of that frontier, with authority to receive into service, from time to time, such force as he may deem necessary for defensive operations. If Lieutenant Colonel Green, of the 6th infantry, could be continued on that duty, consistently with the interest of the service, he would not only be very efficient, but would give general satisfaction and confidence.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT.

TALLAHASSEE, *January* 19, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, and, agreeably to your request, I have authorized Captain Peyton, of the Quartermaster's Department, to take possession of the public buildings at St. Mark's.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 26, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, enclosing a copy of one to General Taylor, requesting him to authorize me "to call into service a militia force, of not exceeding three hundred men, in cases of emergency." You may rest assured, sir, that I shall carefully avoid the least abuse of the authority you have conferred on me, and that I shall in no case call troops into service when it shall not, in my opinion, be necessary to prevent a recurrence of the outrages and murders which have so frequently been committed on the defenceless inhabitants of the frontier. The recent occurrences in this neighborhood

must convince you of the necessity of my being invested with the power you have conferred on me.

I enclose you, herewith, a copy of my correspondence with General Taylor and the officers of the local militia, on the subject of the defence of the frontier, accompanied by a special message to the Legislative Council, communicated five days before the commencement of the late depredations in the vicinity.

I beg leave most respectfully to invite your particular attention to these documents; they will give you a faithful account of the situation of this Territory. I am well satisfied, sir, of your disposition to do every thing in your power for the defence of the people of Florida, and I deem it necessary that you should be correctly informed on the subject.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Tallahassee, February 1, 1839.

SIR: I transmit herewith a copy of my correspondence with the Secretary of War, so far as it has not already been published, and a copy of my correspondence with General Taylor, in conformity with a resolution of the Senate, passed on the 21st ultimo.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

To the PRESIDENT *of the Senate.*

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, *April* 25, 1838.

SIR: Within the last two or three months the department has several times received intelligence of depredations committed by the Indians in Middle Florida, and has called the attention of General Jesup to them, and given particular directions for the defence of that portion of the Territory. Recent information of further depredations renders it necessary that some further steps should be taken; and I have the honor to inform you that the commanding officer in Florida has this day been written to, and directed to send an officer of rank and intelligence to that section, with such part of the regular force as can be spared, for the purpose of preventing a repetition of those depredations, and, if possible, to capture or destroy the lawless marauders who commit them. The regular force that this officer may be able to take with him may not be sufficient for the accomplishment of the objects in view, and it may therefore be necessary for him to apply to your excellency for a portion of the militia to aid him. In this event, I am instructed by the President to request that you will place at his disposal such an amount of force of this description as he may require, to serve three months unless sooner discharged.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

S. COOPER, *Acting Secretary of War.*

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 12, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., in which you inform me of the measures recently adopted by the War Department for the defence of the frontier of Middle Florida. It will afford me great pleasure to comply with the directions of the President to furnish such militia force as may be required by the officer placed in command of the frontier for the protection of its inhabitants. This I have ever done on the requisition of General Jesup, and I should do injustice to that valuable officer were I not to acknowledge the zealous efforts he has at all times made, with the means he possessed, to defend our citizens from the attacks of the enemy. At my request, he recently ordered to St. Mark's six companies of the 6th regiment of infantry, which are now on duty in Middle Florida. This force is now principally employed against the Creek Indians, who, after having surrendered and agreed on a day for their embarcation for the west, suddenly abandoned their camp at night, and fled precipitately, leaving most of their baggage behind them. They were nominally in charge of a guard of ten men, which was all the force I had to control them. About thirty of the women and children still remain in camp, and appear to be perfectly satisfied. They inform me that the others were induced to fly, from an apprehension created by some designing white men that it was my intention to destroy the men and confine the women in chains. The chief, at his departure, avowed his determination to make his way to the Seminoles, and they retreated in that direction. But the necessary preparations have been made to intercept them, and I entertain hopes that they may be captured or destroyed. Their flight created great apprehension among the neighboring inhabitants, and I was under the necessity of ordering out a portion of the militia for their protection. They were all discharged, however, in a few days, with the exception of two detachments, which are still in service. One of them is employed in guarding a pass on the Ocklockney river, to prevent the escape of the Creeks to the east; and the other in guarding the prisoners, and in preventing an intercourse between the Creeks and the Apalachicola Indians, some of whom fled with the Creeks. They are without an agent, and, finding them greatly excited, I deemed it most prudent to receive a few of their warriors into service, with a small detachment of white men, whom I placed there to give confidence to the timid and restrain the vicious. I adopted this course after a personal examination of the situation of these Indians, and from a conviction of its necessity; there being no officer or troops of the Government near enough to produce any effect in that quarter. I hope the measure will be approved by the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Captain S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, *May* 20, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, expressing your readiness to comply with the requisition made upon you, by direction of the President, for such militia force as the

officer charged with the defence of Middle Florida may find it necessary to call for; advising of the flight of the Creek Indians assembled for emigration to the west; of the consequent alarm of the citizens, and of the measures you have taken for their protection, consisting of the employment of a portion of the militia and of the Apalachicola Indians. These measures you express a wish may be approved by the department, under the impression, it is presumed, that such approval will legally entitle the troops so employed to compensation from the United States.

The laws relating to the employment of militia and volunteers prohibit the payment of any by the Government, except those regularly mustered into, or out of, the service of the United States, under directions from the President, the Secretary of War, or a general officer of the regular army; so that the formal approval by the department of the measures alluded to would not effect the object for which it is inferred you desire it. The only way, therefore, in which the department could legally bind itself for the payment of the troops in question would be, to have mustered into the service those still employed, and to have mustered out those who have been dismissed, if they would assemble for that purpose; and General Taylor, who has full power, under his instructions, to employ such an amount of force, and to make all other arrangements necessary for the defence of Florida, will be written to, and authorized to adopt the above course.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Tallahassee, *May* 20, 1838.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose you, herewith, copies of letters which I have just received from many highly respectable citizens of West Florida, informing me of the re-appearance of the Indians in that quarter. Whether they are a part of those who lately escaped from Apalachicola river, or whether it is a different party which has more recently arrived from Alabama, I am unable to decide. But I am disposed to believe they are of the latter, as the former were trailed, in the opposite direction, as far east as the Ocklockney river, in the neighborhood of which, it is believed, they still are.

You will perceive, from the enclosed documents, that the appearance of an enemy in that sparsely populated district has given rise to much excitement among the people, and that they, as it is natural they should do, have called upon the Executive for protection. The laws of the Territory, in such cases, have made it my duty to order out the militia for their defence. This duty I have hitherto performed whenever the occasion has required it. And, notwithstanding the embarrassment which has resulted to me and the troops I have employed, by the delay of the Government in paying them for services rendered under my orders, I should not now hesitate in pursuing the same course, if I had the means of supplying them with forage and provision; but this I find impossible. That section of country which is threatened with danger was, during the last summer, overrun by the Creek Indians. The inhabitants were unable to cultivate their plantations, and the country is in consequence destitute of supplies. I should call on the as-

sistant quartermaster of the United States army at this place to furnish the necessary articles, as he has done heretofore on all similar occasions for the last eighteen months, but he has recently informed me that he declines furnishing any thing on my requisition for the Territorial troops not regularly mustered into the service of the United States. On the occasion alluded to, I tendered the command of the troops I had raised to Major Dearborn, the senior officer of the United States army in Middle Florida. He declined accepting of them, on the ground that he had no authority so to do. I then requested him to order the assistant quartermaster to furnish them with the necessary supplies. This he also declines doing, for the same reason; and I have been compelled to purchase supplies for these troops on my own credit and that of the Territory, while there is a United States quartermaster and a public depot of stores within twenty miles of the place where they are required. I am aware, sir, that the payment or non-payment for these supplies, by the Government, may hereafter be made a grave question; but, so long as my private fortune will enable me to save a single family from destruction, it shall be freely expended. This, however, is too limited to be of much avail; and in the case in which I am now called on for protection, when the whole resources of the country have been exhausted, I regret that I can do no more than report the circumstances to the proper department of the Government.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Captain SAMUEL COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *June* 2, 1838.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 20th ultimo, and its enclosures, on the subject of the appearance of Indians in West Florida; of the fears of the inhabitants of depredations from them; and of their desire to be protected by a military force.

From your letter, it appears that your excellency is still under a misapprehension as to the power of the department to make provision for the subsistence and payment of militia called out by you for the defence of Florida. This is not a matter in which the department can exercise its discretion, it being limited to making provision for the maintenance of those troops only which are regularly mustered into the service, and for the payment of those so mustered into or out of the service, under directions from the President, the Secretary of War, or a general officer of the United States army. It is still further restricted by the means to provide for but a very limited force, as it is with the greatest difficulty that appropriations can be obtained of Congress for even the smallest possible amount of force necessary for the execution of its duty of protecting the inhabitants of Florida and elsewhere. Hence the necessity of vesting the calling out of troops, and taking other measures involving expense for the defence of Florida, only in the general in command there. Ample authority has been given to General Taylor to take every measure in his power to afford protection to the inhabitants of that Territory, as you have already been advised; and it would save time and risk if, in all exigencies of the kind presented in your letter, you would apply to him for the necessary force, when he could

either regularly raise additional force, so that it could be maintained and paid without difficulty by the United States, or move to the point where it is required a portion of that already in service; and thus save the heavy expense of employing new troops.

Immediately on the receipt of your letter, yesterday, General Taylor was advised of the grounds for apprehending disturbances in West Florida; and he will, without doubt, take such measures in reference thereto as the circumstances may require.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Headquarters, Army of Florida,
Camp Walker, (35 *miles S. E. of Tampa*,) *May* 18, 1838.

Sir: The command of the regular troops and the militia properly mustered into the service of the United States, in Florida, having this moment been turned over to me by Major General Jesup, in compliance with instructions from general headquarters of the army, and, as a matter of course, the management of the war against the Seminoles and other Indians in this Territory having devolved on me, I deem it to be my duty to communicate with you in relation to the same, and hope to receive your co-operation, and all the information you may be able to give me, which may in any way tend to its successful and speedy termination.

I should very much like, were it in my power to do so, to have a personal interview with you, as many subjects might be discussed and decided on, in regard to carrying on said war, which cannot be so well done by letter; and would visit Tallahassee for that purpose, did my engagements and health, which is not very good at this moment, permit.

My first object during the sickly season will be to afford protection to the persons and property of the exposed frontier inhabitants of the country, and preserve, as far as it can be done, the health of the troops for active operations, as soon as the season will justify the measure; and I flatter myself that I shall, for the most part, be able to effect the first with the regular troops placed under my orders, (which amount to twenty-six companies of infantry, and four of dragoons,) as soon as they can be placed in the several positions they should occupy, and that portion of the 6th infantry, recently ordered to St. Mark's to aid in emigrating some refugee Creeks who are somewhere in Middle Florida, get through with that duty, which, I trust, has or will be very soon successfully accomplished.

It appears to me that, in the first place, the hostiles should all be driven to the east and south of St. Augustine and the road leading from Tampa Bay to Fort King and Garey's Ferry, and kept there until they could be forced to emigrate. Could the first be done (which there is no doubt of) it would at once relieve the settlements of every portion of Florida worth protecting, and, cutting off all intercourse with them by land and water, would, in a very short time, compel them to leave the country, which cannot be accomplished by coercion, for some time at least, and then at an enormous expense of life (owing to the climate) as well as of treasure; but on this subject I shall be ever ready to change my views, the moment I

am convinced that they are erroneous or founded in error. I am now here engaged in collecting a portion of the Seminoles for emigration, where I expect to be detained some eight or ten days, when I shall proceed to Tampa, and from thence to visit the several posts to the north and east of that place, within the limits of my command. There are now in my camp three hundred and thirty Seminoles, men, women, and children, and thirty-five negroes; among the former are many of their principal men. Should I succeed in getting them to leave the country without having to resort to force, I feel confident the greater portion of that tribe now out will very soon follow them, and hope the most of the Mickasukies, Tallahassees, &c., will ere long follow their example.

With great respect and esteem, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,
Brig. General U. S. Army, commanding.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Tallahassee, *June* 26, 1838.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo. I congratulate you on your succession to the command of the army in Florida, and I assure you it will afford me great pleasure to co-operate with you in the prosecution of the war against the Seminoles, and to render you any service in my power to bring it to a speedy and successful termination. I should be happy to have a personal interview with you, and will endeavor to visit your headquarters before the opening of the next campaign. Your plans for the summer are such, generally, as prudence and judgment would dictate. The preservation of the health of the troops is required by humanity, as well as policy, in order to render them efficient at the opening of the campaign in the fall. But I entertain a belief that the enemy may be greatly harassed during the summer, without much expense or inconvenience to the troops. It has been reported to me (but I cannot vouch for the correctness of the intelligence) that the Indians are cultivating corn at the old town on the Withlacoochie. A detachment of 500 mounted men, by a prompt and energetic movement, could, in a very few days, overrun all that section of country, surprise the Indians in exposed situations, and in small parties, before they could escape or imbody in the swamps; many of them might be killed or captured, and their crops, if they have any, destroyed. Such result would produce on them a much more decided and favorable impression than those arising from the most successful defensive measures, and would be in accordance with that part of your plan in which you propose to drive the enemy south of St. Augustine, and east of the road from Fort King to Tampa Bay. The people of Alachua and Columbia are very anxious for this expedition, and I have been offered a sufficient number of volunteers from these counties for the service. Should you think favorably of it, you will please address Colonel Robert Brown and Lieut. Colonel Simon Beckham, on the subject, at Newnansville. To save time on this, as well as on all other occasions, when you may require the aid of a militia or volunteer force, the officers of East Florida will be ordered to comply with your requisition on them, without the formality of applying to me, which, from the distance

that intervenes, must be always attended with delay. The troops of that section are acquainted with the enemy and the country; they are inured to the climate, and willing to operate during the summer, and, I believe, may render a very important service. At this season of the year, the Indians are generally to be found in the open country; they do not expect an attack, and may, therefore, be surprised by rapid movements and cut off. By harassing and constantly annoying them, they will sooner become tired of the war, and be contented to emigrate. The horses, at this season of the year, may be subsisted on grass during an expedition of 10 or 15 days. Five or six hundred mounted men will be strong enough to go anywhere, and may harass the enemy during the whole summer, and leave the regular force fresh for a systematic campaign in the fall. I have thought proper to offer these suggestions for your consideration, and hope you will call on me for any assistance I may be enabled to furnish you.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding army in Florida.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Suwanee river, near the mouth of the Suwanneechee,
Camp Gilmer, Ware county, Georgia, July 14, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, and thank you for your congratulations on my succession to the command in Florida, which, I am free to say, was neither asked for nor desired, as there is but little to be acquired in the way of reputation, whether successful or otherwise. I have, however, entered on the duties appertaining to the same with zeal, if not with ability; and shall leave nothing undone, so far as devotion and exertion go, to bring the war to a speedy termination; and, at the same time, will relinquish, with more pleasure, the command to any one the Government may think proper to supersede me than I felt on assuming it. I also thank you for the prompt manner you have ordered the militia of East Florida to aid me, should I require their services, without a formal calling on the Executive, as well as your willingness to co-operate with me in any other way which may have the effect of terminating the war in question. On the subject of a movement by the militia of Alachua and Columbia counties against the Indians, supposed to be planting on the Withlacoochie, alluded to by you, I have to state that Lieutenant Colonel Harney was ordered, previous to the receipt of your communication, to examine (with the dragoons) that section of country. It is, therefore, unnecessary for them to make such an expedition. I deem it bad policy to order the militia out, without the chances are greatly in favor of their effecting something against the enemy; as every failure serves not only to discourage them, but to embolden the latter, as well as to bring into disrepute with the country that description of force; and as there is no certainty of the hostiles even being in that quarter, I consider the ascertaining that fact had better be left to the regular troops. Notwithstanding no one entertains a higher opinion than I do of the zeal, devotion, and courage of the militia of Florida, yet I am decidedly opposed to calling into the

service any portion of those of East Florida, farther than as guides and spies; for, were they to perform the duties which ought to be required of them, they must be removed from their families, leaving them at the merey of the hostiles, besides interfering with the cultivation of their plantations, which should be encouraged by the Government, even should it be necessary to do so by granting a moderate bounty on every bushel of corn they raised, besides affording them every possible protection, which, if it cannot be done by the regular troops, should be done by the militia taken from the most populous parts of the Territory, where no danger is to be apprehended, or from the adjoining States. But employing the militia of East Florida to carry on the war, which must be done to the total neglect of agriculture, will produce consequences little short of its being overrun by the enemy.

As the immense extent of country over which the few inhabitants are scattered, and the distances many of them are from water communication, where depots may be made, the making up of the enemy into small parties, and locating themselves in swamps and hammocks, where it is almost impossible to reach them, and the difficulty of transporting provisions alone to sustain the troops employed for their protection, would almost justify the abandonment of the country, the speediest and most effectual way of terminating this war would be, in my humble opinion, by encouraging the settlement of the country by every means.

In consequence of a number of Indians having taken refuge in the Okefenokee swamp, I have located one company of dragoons and one of infantry at this point, and shall establish one company of infantry midway between this and Trader's hill, and one of dragoons on the opposite side of this, in the neighborhood of Waresboro'.

This force, I flatter myself, in addition to a company of militia just organized along the line between Georgia and Florida, near the "Okefenokee," (to act as guides and spies,) will afford ample protection to the exposed inhabitants around and near the same. Should this not be the case, such additional companies of militia as may be necessary will be called into service from the State of Georgia. The regular troops have not, nor will they be, kept in action during the summer, but will be kept constantly employed in harassing and cutting up the enemy wherever he can be reached. Lieutenant Colonel Harney has just returned from an expedition up the St. John's, (some 80 or 100 miles from Black creek:) he "reports" (after the most minute examination of the country in that quarter) that he did not discover the sign of a single Indian, and is induced to believe that they have abandoned that portion of the Territory. Whenever the season arrives for carrying on systematic operations against the enemy, I expect to be under the necessity of calling for a small militia force to aid me in my operations; in which event, I shall require them mostly to serve on foot, as it may be necessary to use the axe full as much as the rifle or musket, as it may be found necessary to open many roads for military purposes along the seacoast, from St. Mark's to the mouth of the Suwanee, and between the latter river, the Ochlawaha, and the Withlacoochie, should the enemy attempt to occupy those sections of country. I can assure you that it will afford me great pleasure to have a personal interview with you at any time or place, but more particularly so at my headquarters, should it meet your convenience; as I should like to avail myself of your better knowledge of the country occupied by the hostiles, as well as the best mode of carrying on the war

against them, so as to bring it to a speedy close, which could be so much better done by a personal interview than by letter.

I am, with great respect, your excellency's obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brigadier General U. S. army, commanding.

To His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA.

P. S.—I leave this place shortly for Tampa Bay.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Fort White, July 18, 1838.

SIR: I have received a communication from the Department of War, under date of 30th May, 1838, enclosing a copy of a letter to your excellency, on the subject of the employment of militia by the United States, referring the matter to me, with power to employ such an amount of force, and to make all other arrangements necessary for the defence of Florida. As regards the mustering in and out of service detachments of volunteers called out by your excellency, so as to entitle them to compensation, I have the honor to inform you that Major Dearborn, commanding in Middle Florida, has been charged by me with this duty, and will muster in and out such troops as he may require: and, in reference to the past, he will muster out (they agreeing to assemble for that purpose) all such as in his opinion were necessary, who have rendered services which should entitle them to compensation.

No one can feel more than I do for the sufferings and privations to which the people of Florida have been subjected in the course of this most unfortunate war, or more deeply sympathize with them for the loss, on many occasions, of relatives and friends. This state of things, and similar occurrences, may continue for some time, particularly in East Florida, owing to the sparse population, and the consequent advantages which the enemy, who are broken into small parties, have of harassing them; the innumerble swamps and hammocks in the rear offering to the Indian a secure retreat, almost impenetrable to the white man. Notwithstanding this, however, I cannot see the propriety of mustering into the service a regiment or regiments of the militia for the protection of their own homes, as it is impossible to establish a garrison at every man's door.

Believing, as I do, that there are nearly, if not quite, enough regular troops in the Territory to give to the inhabitants such security as they ought to expect from the General Government, (to afford which nothing shall be omitted on my part, or that of the troops I command,) I am now about to return to Tampa Bay to attend to my duties in that quarter. There I shall be happy to hear from your excellency, and to communicate as well as cooperate with you in any measures for the safety of the citizens of the Territory.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your excellency's most obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

To His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Fort Brooke, August 8, 1838.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that Lieutenant Colonel Green has just been authorized to call upon your excellency for such force as he may deem necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of Middle Florida, to serve on foot or on horseback, as in his opinion may be most advisable By instructions from the Secretary of War, received last mail, such force must be mustered as draughted militia. I had hoped that that part of the 6th infantry under command of Captain Hutter, together with the volunteer force recently taken into service west of the Suwanee, would have been sufficient to have afforded ample protection to our citizens in that section of country, as it has been from the time Major Dearborn was placed in command, to the late tragical occurrence. I flatter myself, however, that, with such militia force as Colonel Green may require, and which, I make no doubt, your excellency will promptly furnish, he will succeed in capturing and destroying portions, if not the whole, of the enemy.

I will endeavor to have a personal interview with you, if possible, in the course of ten or fifteen days, to consult upon the best means for the present and future protection of the country, and the best method calculated for driving the Indians therefrom.

With high respect, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,
Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

To His Excellency Governor CALL.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 17, 1838.

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 8th instant, with which I am highly gratified. The safety of this frontier requires that the commanding officer should be invested with the authority which you have conferred on Lieutenant Colonel Green, and I shall be ready at all times to comply with his requisition. In anticipation of your approval of the measure, before the receipt of your letter, and after the recent murders on the frontier, I organized a force for its protection, which I hope will be adequate to the service required. Through the courtesy of Colonel Green, these troops have been promptly supplied, and the apprehensions of the exposed settlers have been quieted by their presence. Had he arrived sooner, one family at least would have been saved from butchery. On the first appearance of danger, I ordered a detachment of volunteers, raised for the occasion, to take a position at the lowest settlement on the Ocklockney river, as a guard for that frontier. They repaired promptly to the station assigned them, but, owing to the refusal of the quartermaster to furnish them with supplies, and the subsequent refusal of Major Dearborn to receive them into service, they were compelled to retire. In consequence of which, the Indians afterwards attacked and murdered the family at the very house where these troops were stationed. I feel every confidence in the belief that, under the authority now conferred on Colonel Green, with his zeal for the service, few instances of the kind will again occur. Active and energetic operations are now in progress by the regular troops and volunteers under the command of Colonel Green, against the fugitive Creek Indians; and I hope, in a short

time, they will be destroyed or driven from their present position. A few days since, some 30 or 40 of them robbed two houses on the Appalachicola river. A small party of mounted men, inferior in number, gave active pursuit, and succeeded in recapturing nearly all the property they had plundered; but their force was not sufficient to enable them to pursue the enemy to any great distance, and they were compelled to return. Not only the safety of the frontier settlements, but the evil example which they present to the Apalachicola bands, requires that the Creeks should be destroyed or expelled from their neighborhood without delay. I have just returned from a visit to these bands; I find them generally, at present, well disposed, and they profess a willingness to emigrate on the 20th October, the time stipulated in the treaty. But if the Creeks can hold out against us, and are permitted, with impunity, to plunder and destroy almost in their presence, we have reasons to apprehend that the Apalachicola Indians will, when urged to remove, reinforce them with one hundred warriors no less desperate than themselves. I think it, therefore, highly important that the most vigorous pursuit of the Creeks be continued until they are captured or destroyed. I would also suggest the propriety of stationing a respectable force on the Apalachicola river, in the neighborhood of the Indian towns, a short time before the day appointed for the removal of these Indians, to be employed against them if necessary. This force might be furnished by the regular troops or volunteers. I am gratified to learn that you propose visiting this place; I shall be happy to see you, and will postpone my intended trip to Washington until after your arrival, although I had intended to set out on Thursday next. The frontier, with the defence of which Colonel Green is charged, extends from the Apalachicola to the Suwanee, a distance of more than 150 miles. To give it protection, the troops under his command must necessarily be extended along the whole line in such numbers as will enable them to drive off the small bands into which the Indians are divided, and cover the most exposed settlements. In doing this, there will seldom be more than one company at any station, and generally a much smaller force. Tallahassee being a central position, and one from whence orders may be most conveniently sent, and reports received, I have recommended Colonel Green to make his headquarters at this place, which will, no doubt, meet with your approbation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Gen. Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding army of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Tallahassee, Florida, August 20, 1838.

GOVERNOR: At the moment I was leaving St. Mark's for this place, yesterday, your letter of the 17th instant, in relation to murders recently committed on our citizens by the Indians, was handed me; in reply to which, I have to state that the measures adopted by you I was gratified to learn had restored confidence, and quieted the apprehensions of the frontier settlers on the Ocklockney and in that direction, and, I flatter myself, will prevent similar occurrences.

It had been hoped by myself, as well as by my predecessor, that the six companies of infantry ordered to this part of Florida, and measurably placed under your direction, would have given the necessary protection to the persons and property of the inhabitants in this quarter: hence instructions were given to Major Dearborn, commanding west of the Suwanee, not to receive any additional militia force to those already in service, unless, in his opinion, it was absolutely necessary to do so for the immediate safety of that portion of country under his orders; which instruction I felt bound to give him, from instructions received from general headquarters. Therefore, no blame can be rightly attached to that valuable officer. But matters have unfortunately changed since that period; and I trust that every means in our power, both regular and militia, will be used against the enemy, until he is captured, destroyed, or driven from the country. They are now broken up into small parties, and scattered from the Apalachicola to Florida points, and from the Gulf of Mexico to the Okefenokee, in Georgia, secreting themselves in (to the white man) almost impenetrable swamps and hammocks, from which they rally and destroy every defenceless family and unsuspecting traveller that falls in their way; immediately after which they fly into their fastnesses and hiding-places for security, where we have been seldom able to follow and overtake them. This description of warfare, the most troublesome, vexatious, and distressing, (being waged on helpless women and children,) is now carried on, not only around the greater portion, and through the centre, of the settled parts of the country, but extends along the borders, and into the State of Georgia. Had these Indian towns, villages, or habitations, which they would defend, or could they be brought to battle, at every disadvantage, in their swamps and hammocks, the war would soon be brought to a close, no matter at what sacrifice of life on the part of the officers and soldiers of the regular army serving in Florida, as well as on the part of a large portion of the citizens of the Territory; which sacrifice, I feel confident, would be cheerfully made. But, unfortunately, the policy of these people is now to keep out of our way, which the nature of the country enables them to do, leaving it to the climate to fight their battles, which has proved more fatal to the white man than the rifle and scalping-knife, and, consequently, is more to be dreaded; and if nature has so organized them as to make them fleeter of foot than the white man, and give them a country where they leave no traces when they fly—if we cannot overtake them, it is our misfortune, and not our fault.

Under this state of things, I have suggested to the department the propriety of employing the blood hound of Cuba, with several Spaniards accustomed to manage them, to aid us in ferreting out the enemy, to be used alone as trackers to enable us to come up with them; and I would be glad to have your opinion in regard to this measure, and, if approved, your influence in carrying the same into effect, in the first instance, barely as an experiment. I would also be glad if you would communicate your views as to the number of Indians west of the Suwanee, other than those in the Okefenokee, including the runaway Creeks, Tallahassees, and the Apalachicolas; designating the number of warriors in each band, the position they occupy, and the number of troops necessary to drive them from the neighborhood of the settlements; and the several points to concentrate the forces for the object in question, as well as any other views you may think proper to communicate in relation to the same.

Colonel Green will make his headquarters (as you suggest) in this place, and will consult with you from time to time, and adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the security and protection of the persons and property of the citizens of Middle Florida.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brevet Brig. Gen., U. S. A., commanding.

His Excellency R. K. Call.

Tallahassee, *August* 21, 1838.

Sir: The deep interest I feel in the termination of the war with the Seminole Indians, and the length of time through which it has been protracted, induce me to address you on the subject, and to offer such suggestions for its future prosecution as have been presented to my view from an attentive observation of its whole progress. It is now near three years since the commencement of this harassing and disastrous conflict; and although many battles have been fought, and many of the enemy have been killed or captured, a force still remains which, from the nature of the country, no less than from the character of the enemy, forbids the hope that it will terminate, under the present system, without a long and continued struggle, a vast increase in the loss of life, and expenditure of the public treasure. In the progress of this war, our best generals and the best appointed armies have been employed with little success, although all has been done which skill, energy, and untiring perseverance could accomplish. The object which we sought has not been obtained. So far from removing the Indians from the land of their nativity, our frontier settlements have receded before the fire and sword of the enemy; and his dominion has been extended over a large scope of country, from which the white man has been expelled. The destruction of the houses and other property of our citizens has caused them to retire farther into the interior of the settlements, to seek for shelter and for subsistence. They cannot, like the savage, feed on roots and game, with no other covering than the heavens to shelter them. Such, too, is the situation of our soldiers; without the food to which they have been accustomed, they are unable to perform service. Their supplies are procured from a distance, and are carried into the interior with great difficulty and expense. The most secure hiding-places of the enemy cannot be penetrated, except on foot: hence, the provision of the soldier must be carried in his knapsack; and when his supply is exhausted, he is compelled to retire from the want of food, leaving the enemy in undisturbed possession of his native fortress. It is not from numbers, superior bravery, or skill in the use of arms, that the Seminole has thus long been enabled to resist our power; but from the nature of the country which he inhabits, the difficulty of procuring supplies for our army, the effect of the climate on his pursuers, and his art and success in evading pursuit. Experience has taught him that he has only to avoid battle, and the most numerous and best appointed army, conducted with all the skill and energy necessary for success, will be exhausted and subdued by the fatigues and privations of the march. Secure in his ability to evade pursuit, the passage of an army through his country excites but little apprehension: he knows that, from the want of supplies, it must soon retire, leaving him again

undisturbed master of the field. He has already experienced every calamity but the loss of life; his nation has been broken and dispersed into small fugitive bands; his villages and houses have been burnt, his fields laid waste, his cattle destroyed. But the ravages of the war have left him an unsubdued wanderer, armed for destruction: every swamp and every hammock gives him shelter and gives him food. The wild potato, the wild arrow root, the cabbage tree, the palmetto, and the brier-root, everywhere abound: from most of these flour is extracted, by a simple process, which furnishes a wholesome and nutritious food. The woods furnish him with game, and the waters with an inexhaustible supply of fish: hence, want and famine, the attendant consequences of invasion in every other country and with every other people, have no terror for him. The spontaneous products of nature supply him with abundant and congenial means of subsistence; the swamps and hammocks are his barriers of defence; and, while he flies before invasion, his subtle stealth and cunning enable him to surprise the unwary traveller, and to visit the frontier settler with destruction: when least expected, then is he most to be feared. And now, after a sanguinary conflict of near three years—after our army has swept over every portion of the enemy's country, and every hut and village has been destroyed—there is not a family along our whole line of settlements, for more than two hundred miles in extent, that is not nightly exposed to destruction; and scarcely a week passes by without adding to the long and melancholy list of those who have perished by the hand of the savage. My observations on the result of the measures heretofore pursued for the removal of the Indians have brought me forcibly to the conclusion that it cannot be accomplished without a change of policy, so long as they are determined to resist. It is not by the march and countermarch of armies through the enemy's country that he is to be expelled; for he has only to conceal himself for a few days, and the army, exhausted with fatigue and hunger, retires before him without the fire of a gun. The forest must be subdued before the enemy can be finally conquered; every inch of ground taken from him must be firmly held by permanent settlers, who will cultivate the soil and make the wilderness their home. Under this system, there is every reason to believe that the savage would gradually retire before the approach of the civilized man; that he would be compelled to abandon every portion of the country which is susceptible of cultivation; and if he should still seek shelter in the barren waste and inhospitable everglades, the production of the soil of the interior would furnish an abundant supply for the army at convenient points while operating against him.

For the purpose of carrying this plan into execution, I would respectfully suggest the expediency of locating military colonies, under the superintendence and direction of the commanding general, on all the public lands of the peninsula, where the body is sufficiently large to support a population capable of defending itself against the inroads of the enemy. Each colony or settlement, in the first instance, should be located in a healthy position, and in villages. The houses to be constructed in such a manner as to give and receive mutual defence and protection to each other; the men should be required to perform military duty within certain limits; and for the first year, or so long as their safety may demand it, they should be required to cultivate in common, and a portion of them to be constantly prepared for defence. During the first year, the colonists who should join the colony and enrol themselves with the commanding officer on or before a day cer-

tain, and continue to perform his duty faithfully, should be entitled to receive pay and rations as the soldiers of the army. They should be subject in every respect to the rules and articles of war, and be liable to be tried by a court-martial for insubordination or other offences; and after two years habitation and cultivation, and on the final emigration of the Indians, on the certificate of the commanding general, or other officer placed over them, that they have faithfully performed all the duties required of them by law, they shall be entitled to a grant in fee-simple of one quarter section of arable land, to include as near as possible the improvements made by the colony; the right of each individual to be decided by lot. A further encouragement to emigration and settlement might be given by a prospective pre-emption law, conferring a right to purchase, at the Government price, one quarter-section of the public land, on all able-bodied white males who would actually settle on or before a given day, and continue to inhabit and cultivate the said tract of land until the final emigration of the Seminole Indians. Each settler under this law should be exempt from any other than the ordinary duties of a citizen, but he should be required to produce the certificate of the commanding officer of the district to prove the time and continuance of his settlement and improvement. Under this encouragement to emigration, I feel the utmost confidence that, in less than two years, there would not be a resting-place for the Indians north of the everglades; and that, when confined to that unwholesome and comfortless region, if they are not exhausted by disease or famine, they will be contented to emigrate from a country which can offer them no enjoyment. I entertain no doubt but that the adoption of this measure would be attended with entire success; that it would save thousands of valuable lives, and millions of public treasure. While the colonies are forming, and until they are enabled to defend themselves, I would employ a sufficient military force, to escort the settlers in safety to their new homes, to guard the settlements, and drive the enemy into the everglades; and, instead of exhausting the treasure of the Government, and destroying the army by fruitless and unavailing marches, in the vain effort to overtake and destroy them when pursuit is hopeless, I would endeavor to keep them in that inhospitable region as long as they might prefer it to the country assigned them in the west. By occupying healthy positions in the adjacent country, with military posts, and cutting off all communications with traders who have and may continue to supply their wants, they would be compelled from necessity to emigrate. From no data in my possession am I able to form a correct estimate of the number of Indians yet remaining in the country; but I have believed that their force, as well as their character, has been, and still is, calculated too low. I have given you hastily my views of the best mode of expelling them; but I shall be happy to afford you every assistance in my power to prosecute any plan which may be adopted to relieve the country from their presence.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding the army of Florida.

WASHINGTON, *October* 4, 1838.

SIR: I was pleased to hear, from the conversation I had the honor of holding with you this morning, that you had already anticipated the

proposition which I had offered for re establishing the inhabitants of Florida who have been driven from their homes by the Indians.

There is every disposition on the part of that portion of the people to return to the cultivation of the fields from which they have been so long banished, and to contribute every thing in their power, in aid both of the offensive and defensive measures of the Government, against the common enemy. During the present year, many of them, at the hazard of their lives and of all they had left from the ravages of the enemy, returned to their former places of residence, and planted their crops; but, after they were more than half made, th y were compelled to retire before the enemy, and abandon the fruits of their labor. This, however, would not have occurred under a proper military organization, which would have given mutual aid and protection to each other.

The quantity of land prepared for cultivation on the frontier, particularly in the counties of Columbia and Alachua, including the plantations of the large proprietors which have been abandoned, (and will not, probably, be occupied and cultivated by slaves during the continuance of the war,) is sufficient to afford employment and support for a number of men, not only adequate to their own defence, but for the protection of the frontier. By occupying this section of country, the Indians would be driven within more narrow limits, and would be greatly discouraged by seeing that which they had conquered restored to the possession of the white man. Another advantage which would result to the Government from pursuing this measure would be the quantity of grain which would be raised in the country convenient to the seat of war, in the event of another campaign, and the subsistence which would be thus furnished for an increased emigration during another year.

For the purpose of carrying this plan into execution, I propose that General Hernandez, or such other officer of the Florida militia as may be designated for that service, be authorized, under the orders and direction of the commanding general, to receive into the service of the United States, for twelve months, unless sooner discharged, such able-bodied men (not to exceed a brigade) in East Florida as may enrol themselves, including the present frontier settlers, and such as have been driven from their homes, or others who are willing to locate themselves on the line of defence, that the owners of plantations, if they think proper to reoccupy them, shall be reinstated in possession; and those who have none shall be located on any waste or unappropriated land which may be prepared for cultivation: that the whole force, thus organized, shall be regularly mustered into the service of the United States; shall be entitled to receive the pay, rations, and forage, usually allowed to officers and men in the service of the Government, and shall constitute a defence for the frontier from the Atlantic to the Suwanee river, and as far south as the Withlacoochie and New Smyrna on the seaboard: that all the said force, which can at any time be spared from military operations within the limits here prescribed, shall be kept constantly engaged in this service; they shall be divided into companies, or such detachments as will be sufficient to give them security against the attacks of the enemy, and shall rendezvous and encamp at such places along the line of frontier as may be designated by the commanding general, or the immediate commanding officer, whenever it may be deemed unsafe for them to reside at their homes: that the labor of cultivation and the duties of the field shall be distributed as nearly as possible among the different indi-

viduals, and each shall have, as far as practicable, the benefit of his own labor; but that they shall at all times, whether engaged in military service or in cultivation, be subject to the orders of their superiors in office, and be governed by the rules and articles of war. Such a force as this, organized on the plan proposed, would soon restore the population which has been driven from the country, and would form a powerful auxiliary to the army employed in prosecuting the war.

For the defence of the frontier of Middle Florida, extending from the Suwanee to the Ocklockney, I propose the organization of a battalion, on the same principle, to consist of four hundred mounted men, under the command of a field officer. This force would be sufficient, and should be required, to drive out and keep the Indians entirely beyond the Suwanee. This section of country being too remote from the scene of active operations to enable the commanding general to give it the attention and protection which it has and must require so long as hostilities continue, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of continuing an officer of rank of the United States army in command of that frontier, with authority to receive into service, from time to time, such force as he may deem necessary for defensive operations. If Lieutenant Colonel Green, of the 6th infantry, could be continued on that frontier consistently with the interest of the service, he would not only be very efficient, but would give general satisfaction and confidence.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 9, 1838.

MY DEAR GENERAL: I returned to this place on the 7th instant, and had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 22d ultimo, with its enclosure. I have examined your plan of operations with great interest, and consider it decidedly the best which can be adopted, under the circumstances, for the prosecution of the war. It is certainly desirable, as far as practicable, to curtail all unnecessary expenses; but so far as the safety of our fellow-citizens is concerned—so far as it is required to save the lives of helpless women and children—I know you will agree with me that the expenditure of money cannot be regarded. You have, indeed, a most arduous task to perform in prosecuting the war, and at the same time to give the necessary protection to our extensive and exposed frontier; and, with all your energies and untiring perseverance, I fear you will encounter much difficulty in accomplishing this desirable object. I found, on my arrival here, a letter from Colonel Robert Brown, of Columbia county, dated on the 24th ultimo, giving me an account of a most barbarous murder committed by the Indians on the family of Mr. Tiffins, consisting of himself, his wife, and two children. This distressing butchery occurred near the Ocean pond, in East Florida; and, having occasioned great alarm to the inhabitants, Colonel Brown informs me that he had, on the spur of the occasion, ordered out a company of militia for the protection of the settlements. I have directed this force to be kept constantly employed in service, until you shall be able to provide a more permanent and efficient protection. This attack having been made within the county of Alachua, the organization and reception of

the inhabitants of that section of country into the service of the United States would be, I think, embraced in the instructions of the Secretary of War, under date of the 8th of October, of which you have furnished me an extract. Should you be of this opinion, I would respectfully suggest the necessity of having the contemplated organization completed without delay. Colonel Brown informs me that the corn crops in that section are very good, and that abundant supplies may be had in that neighborhood. He is a very intelligent gentleman and a good officer: any duty you may assign him will be faithfully executed. If you could spare an officer to go over and organize the force on the frontier immediately, I think it most important. You will find Colonel Brown prepared to comply with any requisition you may make on him.

I should be very happy to pay you a visit, and, if practicable, will do so when I know when and where to find you.

Yours, most respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

General TAYLOR.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Fort Frank Brooke, Deadman's Bay, Fl., Dec. 18, 1838.

MY DEAR SIR: I reached this place on yesterday, and a few hours after my arrival the steamboat brought your letter of the 9th instant. I need not assure you I was highly gratified to hear of your return to Tallahassee, and, I flatter myself, in improved health.

So far as I deem it may be done for the security of the lives and property of the good people of Florida, I shall not hesitate to call out the militia. So soon as I heard of the murders referred to in East Florida, I authorized Colonel Twiggs (who recommended the measure) to call two companies of militia into service, for the protection of their own firesides. To my surprise, after the authority thus given, I learn that he finds it difficult to raise them. This is somewhat singular, as I have been constantly pressed to organize that description of force.

He also informs me that Captain Mickle's company, raised in the vicinity of St. Augustine, refuse to enter the service. This has caused me to contract, in a measure, my original plan of operations, and to order a regular force to be stationed between Black creek and the Georgia line, which, I am satisfied, will give adequate security to the persons and property of the citizens in that quarter against any small marauding parties of Indians, should they be disposed to attempt further murders or depredations. The largest number of Indians reported in that quarter is twelve; but generally they have been stated at six Indians and a negro. Should Colonel Twiggs obtain the services of the two companies of militia, added to the three companies of regular dragoons ordered there, they ought to be able to ferret out these Indians.

I do not conceive that the Secretary's letter authorizes me to call the Alachua militia into service, unless under certain restrictions, to wit: combining agriculture with military duty. I must be first assured that both will be faithfully done before I can think of acting in the case. Certainly no section of country has ever been so well guarded as the county of Alachua, surrounded as it is by military posts, and troops scouring in all direc-

tions; and so soon as I have two posts between Forts Fanning and Micanopy, (which, in a few days will be done,) the whole of that country heretofore settled by the whites may be reoccupied without the least apprehension of danger.

I am satisfied there have not been more than half a dozen Indians in that section of country for several months past; nor do I apprehend they will again return to depredate upon the persons or property of the inhabitants.

I left Tampa Bay on the 28th ultimo, and passed along the Annultitiga swamp to Fort Clinch, and thence to Fort Fanning, and had the country closely examined on both sides of the road, and found no Indians between the Withlacoochie and Suwanee, nor any recent evidence of their presence. A camp of twenty-six was found in the Annultitiga, which appeared to contain the greater portion, if not all, remaining in that country. It is somewhat singular, notwithstanding that the troops have been pushed in every part of the country where the hostiles were expected to be, and where, doubtless, a few may have been skulking, expresses have been sent, and hunters permitted to go singly, and in small parties, for several months past, up the St. John's to Fort Mellon, and between that and the Atlantic, to New Smyrna, on both sides the Ocklawaha, above Fort King, to Annultitiga, Wacassa, and in this quarter, without coming into collision with a single Indian, I am constantly informed of murders and depredations committed on our citizens and property in the vicinity, where they are ten times less numerous than the whites. I shall, however, do all in my power to secure the inhabitants, even if I am compelled to abandon, in a great measure, my original plan of campaign.

We have done nothing near what should have been accomplished at this season, owing to the late arrival of the troops who compose my command, many having arrived in the country only two or three weeks since, and are not yet in position, but will be in a few days; and no time will be lost in pushing my operations in every quarter where the enemy may be found, particularly near the exposed and frontier settlements. I brought with me to this place two companies of the 2d infantry and one company of dragoons—183 men in all—who will operate, in conjunction with the 6th infantry, until the hammocks and swamps between St. Mark's and the Suwanee are penetrated in every direction. A command will leave here to scour between this and St. Mark's to-morrow or next day, and I hope will succeed in capturing, destroying, or driving from that quarter any Indians who may be there. I shall remain here a few days, and will then proceed to examine the country, and give such directions as may be necessary; and it will give me the greatest pleasure to meet you, although I cannot say how long I will remain at any particular place, although I may remain in Middle Florida some twelve or fifteen days.

Accept the assurances of my high consideration and esteem.

Your friend, &c.,

Z. TAYLOR,

Brev. Brig. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

His Excellency R. K. Call,

Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 29, 1838.

MY DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 18th instant, and regret very much to learn that there has been any delay or unwillingness on the part of the militia of East Florida in furnishing the two companies required by Colonel Twiggs. I presume, however, that his requisition could not have been made on the officer commanding the militia of Columbia county, where the murder mentioned in my letter of the 9th instant was committed, and where, I am assured, that almost every man capable of bearing arms is ready to enter the service whenever required. In my letter of the 9th instant I informed you that, in anticipation of your approval, I had, on being informed of the late murder in that county, ordered Colonel Brown, of Columbia county, to raise a company from his regiment for the defence of the exposed settlements. You do not inform me expressly whether or not you accept of the services of that company; but, from the general tenor of your answer, I presume you do not. Having neither the means nor the disposition to keep in the field any troops which may be unnecessary for defensive measures, I shall order this company, as well as another subsequently called out in that county, to be disbanded. Having called these men into service in consequence of the murder of four persons, (committed by the Indians in the neighborhood,) under the authority of the law which requires me to order out the militia in cases of invasion, I have to request you will cause them to be mustered and paid for the short time they will have been in service. Had I the means of paying and subsisting the militia, I would at once organize the whole frontier force for defence; for it matters not how numerous, efficient, and gallant may be the force in the field, the fact that murders are still committed on the inhabitants is the best proof that they are not sufficiently protected; and the militia, with arms in their hands, and under a military organization, would certainly be much better prepared to defend themselves and their families than they are without them. You are, however, better enabled than myself to form a correct opinion of the necessity of this measure, and I have every confidence in your doing all in your power for the defence of the settlements.

Yours, respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Gen. Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding army of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,
Deadman's Bay, January 3, 1839.

MY DEAR SIR: I have this moment received your letter of the 29th ultimo, on my arrival at this place from the Econfeeny river. In relation to the militia who have been called into service in Columbia county, the subject of mustering them, so as to entitle them to compensation, will be referred to Colonel Twiggs, commander in that quarter. To prevent difficulties as regards payments for the time to come, I hope the calling out of the militia will be left to the proper authority, unless in great emergencies. Whenever, in your opinion, such calls are necessary, I have to ask you will communicate with me on the subject, and I will most cheerfully meet

your views whenever I deem it advisable to do so. I informed you, in my letter of the 18th, that I had put the troops in motion to scour the country in every direction from this point between the Suwanee and the Ocilla rivers. Captain Fowler's company of dragoons have examined the country around the head of the Esteenhatchee, as also between this point and the Suwanee, along the gulf, penetrating most of the hammocks in both directions, without meeting any hostiles. It is, however, evident, from the signs he met with, that more Indians have passed the summer on the Esteenhatchee and the adjacent hammocks, which they have recently abandoned, than in any part of Florida this side of the Kissimee. Major Noel left on the 20th ultimo, with 80 men, by land and water, to scour the hammocks between this and the Finholloway, and to establish a small depot on the latter, where I joined him on the 27th. Major Noel was told by an Indian scout that a large number of Indians were in a hammock near him, and advised him not to attack them until reinforced; which information I received while on my way to his camp, where I arrived next evening, December 27th; and Captain Kingsbury's company of 2d infantry having arrived on the 29th, 140 men under his command entered the hammock referred to, where they found a large camp of Indians, (supposed about 150 men, women, &c.,) who, after a charge by our troops, fired one or two rifles without doing any injury, and fled in every direction, leaving all their equipage, consisting of axes, kettles, skins, clothing, &c., as well as most of their provisions on the spot, some of which were being cooked at the time. The command pursued them until the trail was entirely lost, when they returned to camp, where preparations were again made to pursue them until they are driven from the country. I regret I could not remain longer in that quarter; but having received letters from Colonel Fanning, operating between the Ocklawaha and St. John's, that two large bodies of Indians were assembled in that quarter, and urging me to visit Fort King without delay, where he considered my presence absolutely necessary, I am thus far on my way, although I fear he has been misinformed on the subject, as I do not believe any considerable body of Indians can concentrate, or have concentrated, north of the Kissimee; but should his information be correct, I shall lose no time in dispersing them, or bringing them to battle, if they give me an opportunity to do so. The force left between the Suwanee and Tallahassee, and the arrangements made, I feel satisfied will afford ample protection to the exposed inhabitants of Leon, Madison, and Jefferson counties, and will, in a very short time, succeed in driving the enemy from the same.

I hope Congress will give land to persons who will settle and defend it until the close of the war, which will enable us to carry out the plans proposed by you. Should Congress do so, I shall communicate with you freely, and shall expect your aid to enable me to carry the plan into operation.

With respect and esteem, your friend, truly,

Z. TAYLOR,
Brev. Brig. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

P. S.—If the Indians in the hammock were as numerous as stated, they must be the Indians who passed the summer on Esteenhatchee, or those who ran from Apalachicola last summer.

The message of his excellency the Governor, sent to the Senate on yesterday, as follows:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Tallahassee, February 7, 1839.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Legislative Council:

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with a resolution of the Legislative Council, I herewith transmit a copy of my correspondence with Colonel Robert Brown, of Columbia, and Major Garrason, of Alachua county, relative to the necessity of employing a militia force for the defence of those counties during the past year, and which yet remain unpaid. This correspondence contains all the orders issued by me on that subject, and, with the accompanying report of the strength of Colonel Brown's regiment, will furnish all the information I possess relative to the number of officers and men employed, and the length of time which they were engaged in defensive operations under my orders. The Council will perceive, without more specific intelligence on this subject, the Executive can form no correct estimate of the sum which would be required to pay these troops and defray their expenses while in service. All he can do is to refer the Council to the dates of the respective orders calling out and disbanding the militia, and the number of men these orders authorized to be raised. With regard to the reason why they have not been mustered and paid by the United States, I beg leave to refer you to my correspondence with General Taylor, which has been furnished under a resolution, and is now before the Legislative Council. It will be seen, from the letters of the commanding general, that he deemed the regular force under his authority sufficient for the defence of the country, and, therefore, declined receiving or recognising the militia employed as in the service of the United States. How far the commanding general was right in this conclusion, the Council may learn from the number of murders which occurred, and the insecurity and alarm which prevailed along the whole line of frontier during the last summer. But, whether right or wrong, he is the organ of the Government; and, without his sanction and approval, the troops called into service by the Executive, even in cases of the most urgent necessity and dire emergency, will not be paid by the United States. In vain do the laws of the Territory empower the Governor, in cases of invasion or insurrection, to call out the militia; in vain has the Executive exerted every faculty, and even jeopardized his own private fortune, for the defence of the frontier. Without the means of providing subsistence, forage, and transportation—without the means of paying the troops, no matter what may be the zeal and patriotism of the people—the Executive is powerless in defending the frontier settlements from the massacres and plunderings of the enemy. This truth is forcibly and painfully illustrated by the hapless fate of Lasly and his daughter, disclosed in my correspondence with General Taylor and the Secretary of War. That ill-fated family resided on the Ocklockney river, far in advance of other settlements. When the fugitive Creeks fled from their encampment on the Apalachicola, foreseeing the danger with which they threatened the frontier, without waiting to consult the commanding general, who was more than two hundred miles distant, a requisition was made on the patriotic county of Gadsden, which, with her usual promptitude and zeal, on the shortest notice, sent to the post of danger the number of men required.

These troops were ordered, and accordingly took post at the house of the unfortunate Lasly. A requisition was made on the United States quartermaster at Tallahassee for the necessary articles of forage and subsistence. A very small supply was at first furnished, but, from the whim or caprice of this officer, a peremptory refusal was given to an application for further supplies, though the public storehouses at St. Mark's (not more than twenty-five miles distant) were filled to overflowing with every article required. In consequence of this denial of the aid we had a right to expect, the troops were compelled to retire for the want of subsistence, leaving this family exposed to the mercy of the savages. The Indians, availing themselves of this occasion to satiate their thirst for blood, advanced and attacked the houses, which were bravely defended; but the aged Lasly and his helpless daughter became the victims of barbarous cruelty, and his house and domestic animals formed one general funeral-pile, lighted by the torch of the savages. Such was the melancholy fate of this family, when they might have been saved by furnishing the Territorial troops with a few pounds of the public pork and bread which remained in store until damaged by time and exposure, and were afterwards sold at auction on account of the Government. I mention this as one of the many instances which have occurred during the present war with the Seminoles, in which the lives of our citizens have been sacrificed, when they could have been protected if I had possessed the means of supplying such troops as I might have raised, and which I believed necessary for the defence of the frontier. I cannot express to you, gentlemen, the painful regret and deep humility I have experienced on many occasions from a knowledge that the frontier settlements were exposed to imminent peril when I had no power (and still have none) to extend to them necessary protection. The people of the Territory, when exposed to danger, naturally apply to the Executive for relief; and I am compelled to hear their complaints and bear their reproaches, for what seems to them a neglect of duty and disregard for their sufferings, when I am unable to give them any thing but my sympathy. The Government of the United States has conferred on me no power to raise men for the defence of the frontier; and, though it cannot control the authority I possess for this purpose under the laws of the Territory, yet it holds the purse-strings, and its agents have, and still may withhold pay and subsistence from those whom I have and may again find it necessary to call into service.

Through the courtesy of the commanding general, a correspondence has been maintained between us, and I have been politely furnished with information with regard to the movements of the army. But he, I understand, is under no obligation to confer with me on any subject; nor has he delegated to me any portion of the unlimited power with which he is invested to raise men, and cause them to be paid and subsisted. In his last letter, dated the 3d of January, to which I beg leave to invite your particular attention, he expresses a confident belief that the most ample protection will be given to this frontier by the regular troops stationed west of the Suwance. I have great respect for the judgment and capacity of the commanding general, and hope that his opinion on this subject may be well founded; but should it prove otherwise, the delay which would attend the calling out of any portion of the militia for the defence of the frontier, under the rule proposed, would prove fatal to those dependent on this force for protection. He advises, in cases of great emergency, when I may deem it necessary to call out the militia, that I shall address him on the subject, and, should

he approve of it, he will give the measure his sanction. To illustrate the objections to, and the impropriety of, such a measure of defence, it is only necessary to imagine the recurrence of one of the numerous instances of invasion and assault which have occurred on the frontier. A band of the enemy appears in the sparser settlements. They commence their system of indiscriminate slaughter and pillage. The employment of a militia force becomes indispensably necessary; but I have neither provision nor transportation, without which this force cannot move. The commanding general is at Tampa Bay, more than two hundred miles distant. I must communicate with him, and procure his authority, before the troops of the Territory can obtain supplies from the ample stores of the Government. In the mean time the work of death is progressing, and a whole neighborhood may be desolated by the enemy. Under this system, a few penurious pence may be unworthily saved to the treasury of the nation; but it is an economy which must be practised at the expense of the blood and property of our people—at the expense of the pride and lost reputation of the country.

How far this policy is consistent with the principles of justice and humanity—how far it is in accordance with the reciprocal obligations of allegiance and protection—how far it is compatible with the dignity of our Government—I leave for the determination of others less interested than myself in the security and welfare of our fellow citizens. I seek not to divide with the commanding general the empire of defensive or offensive operations. But my pride as an officer, and my feelings as a man, revolt at the idea of remaining a passive spectator of the scene of bloodshed which may occur on this frontier, without the means of affording relief, until the commanding general may think proper, after an application shall have been made to him, to open the public storehouses for the support of the militia while in service. I repeat again, that my most fervent hope is that the commanding general may be right in his conclusions, and that the regular troops may give entire security to the frontier. He is best calculated, from his position, to form a correct judgment; and his opinion is entitled to high consideration.

But after the numerous murders which occurred during the last summer—after the distress and suffering which was occasioned by the enemy, under the same assurance of protection—we have no right to slumber in this supposed security. The commanding general, I am sure, as far as practicable, will redeem his pledge, and I can vouch for his zeal and energy; but the enemy may again evade his pursuit, and fall upon the frontier settlements when least expected. Let us, therefore, as far as the limited resources of the Territory will permit us to act, prepare for the defence of our fellow-citizens, regardless of the treasure which may be expended. Beyond this, we cannot go. But the Government of the United States is bound to give all necessary protection to our people; and it is bound, by the same moral obligation, to pay the troops of Columbia and Alachua counties, who served under my orders during the last summer. I recommend, again, that a memorial be presented to Congress, setting forth all the facts of the case, and enumerating the different murders which were committed by the Indians. They afford conclusive proof that the army did not give the necessary protection to the country. They justify the employment of the militia, and proclaim the justice of their demands for compensation. It is but necessary to speak in plain and comprehensive language – to represent our claims in a proper light—and Congress, with its usual justice and liberality, will respond without hesitation to your prayer for relief. This measure was recommended

in my annual message, at the commencement of your present session ; and, after the most mature deliberation on the subject, I can discover no better prospect of relief. Should the commanding general execute the plan proposed by the Secretary of War for the defence of the frontier, by organizing the settlers capable of bearing arms, and receiving them into the service of the United States, I have every confidence in its efficiency and the security it would afford ; but, without it, I apprehend a renewal of all the horrors and sufferings which were experienced on the frontier during the last summer. The Executive will ever be ready and zealous in the discharge of every duty, and in the exercise of every authority he may possess for the defence of the country ; but I desire it to be borne in mind that he is powerless under the present system of defence, and that the blood of the slaughtered women and children of the frontier must fall on other skirts than his.

Your fellow-citizen,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, *March* 19, 1838.

DEAR SIR: It is my painful duty to inform you of another horrible Indian massacre in this county. On the night of the 16th, a party of Indians most inhumanly butchered a Mr. George Gillitto, his wife, and two children, and a lad, the son of one of his neighbors, who was there that fatal night: in all, five. As soon as information of the deed reached us, we repaired forthwith to the place of slaughter, and I, with a small party of citizens, took the trail and followed it until we became satisfied that they had full time to reach a dismal swamp near the lines; we then abandoned the pursuit as hopeless for so few men, and returned to raise more men for the purpose of scouring the swamp. We have the promise of the men, and will camp within 40 miles of them to morrow night; and on the following night I hope to be with them. If no disaster befall us, I will guaranty a faithful account of them, &c. We ought to have some standing protection here. This way of depending on the citizens to give protection is quite a poor protection, as it costs so much trouble and time to collect them; and then such a variety of excuses, &c. Several men have raised companies, but they are unwilling to go beyond the limits of the frontier to be stationed. I therefore hope that the colonel elect will be fully advised on this subject.

Captain Cason, who will hand you this letter, offers his services with a company ; and, so far as I am acquainted with Captain Cason as an officer, he has acted well, and is reputed to be quite a thoroughgoing officer. In haste,

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient servant,

ROBERT BROWN.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 26, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 19th instant, communicating the unpleasant intelligence of the murder of another family by the In-

dians in your county. I shall immediately send an express to General Jesup, and request him to detach a force for the defence of your section of country; but in the mean time you will order Captain Cason's company into service, and such other force as you may deem necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of your county, unless General Jesup should be able to send other troops. Those which you may raise will be continued in service, either under the authority of the United States or of the Territory. I have no doubt, however, that they will be received into the service of the United States; in which event, they will be under the direction of the United States officer charged with the command of that district. I shall send, with as little delay as practicable, a supply of corn to Fort White, for the use of the destitute families of your county and those of Alachua.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel R. Brown.

Newnansville, *April* 8, 1838.

Dear Sir: I am here on my way to see General Eustis, who is charged with the protection of this frontier, and am sorry to inform you of the dreadful excitement that prevails here. There appears to be considerable of Indian signs in the neighborhood, and the families have all nearly got safely into this place. They are in a great state of confusion. General Eustis has refused to receive them into the Government service, they say; and to enrol without the hope of pay or rations, in their present condition, seems impossible. In order to hold them together, I have assured them of your power and ability to give them protection, and have advised Major Garrason to order out his whole available force. From letters which I have read him from the General, I think my mission will be unsuccessful; and unless we do something for ourselves, we shall see worse days than ever. We have no regular force on the lines to be depended on, and but two companies of volunteers ordered: one for this frontier, and the other on Duval, were all the regular force, of consequence, on the lines established, and where General Eustis remains in person. And we, outside of all, are left to the tender mercies of merciless savages; while the commanding general says he can see no call for volunteers.

I have become thoroughly convinced that we may unbar our own arms and hang on them for protection. It may cost us something, but much may be done. I therefore hope you will order me into the service with a regiment of rangers, which I am certain can be raised immediately. Speedy action is necessary, or all is lost. A country over which our treasure has been exhausted, and on which lie the last remains of our families, must at last, after so many difficulties, be abandoned; and for what? Because it happened to be our unfortunate lot to be a Territory. These difficulties rather animate than depress me; and I, for one, am ready to step forward and ask the Government to relieve us from the army, and let us combat the Indians alone.

I am, dear sir, with the highest considerations of respect, your excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

ROBERT BROWN,
Colonel 12th Regiment F. M.

His Excellency R. K. Call, *Governor.*

P. S.—Information has just reached me of more murders in Columbia county. Two persons have become victims.

Yours, &c., R. B.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 13, 1838.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 8th instant, and am truly concerned at the distressed situation of your section of country. I hope your interview with General Eustis has been productive of more beneficial results than you anticipated, and that he has consented to receive into the service of the United States a sufficient volunteer force for the protection of the frontier. If, however, he still refuses to do so on the receipt of this, and you find the settlements in danger, you will immediately organize such a force as you may deem necessary for the defence of the inhabitants. You will assign to each company a suitable position, so as to cover the whole line of your frontier, and keep the troops constantly and actively employed in driving back the enemy and in defending the settlements. In the exercise of the authority with which you are hereby invested, you will use a sound discretion, and call out no larger force than in your judgment will be absolutely necessary for defensive operations. Should the troops thus organized and ordered out not be received into the service of the United States, they will be recognised in the service of the Territory; and I will endeavor to have them paid so soon as funds can be procured for that purpose by the authority of the Legislative Council. With regard to forage and subsistence, it is impossible for me to provide either. There is none to be purchased in this part of the country, and exchange on New Orleans cannot be obtained here at any premium. I hope, however, this state of things will not long continue, and that I shall in a short time be able to procure a sufficient amount to enable me to send the corn I promised to Fort White, for the suffering inhabitants of Columbia and Alachua. Whatever I can do to sustain the brave defenders of the frontier, who have so long and so gallantly withstood the assaults of the enemy, you may be assured shall be done. I will send a copy of your letter to our Delegate in Congress; and I would recommend you, by all means, to draw up a memorial to Congress, setting forth, in its true light, the situation of the country, and ask for relief. Let it be signed by the people, and sent without delay to our Delegate. I am invested with no authority whatever from the Government of the United States to defend the country; and whatever I may do for that purpose, must be on my own responsibility and that of the Territory. I have been compelled to raise men for the defence of Middle and West Florida, for the last eighteen months, and to provide the money to pay them. I have borrowed and caused to be paid to these troops $85,000, not one cent of which has been refunded by the Government. The quartermaster, with every disposition to accommodate me, and to relieve the country, informs me that, under recent orders he has received, he will no longer be able to furnish express men on my requisition. You will thus perceive that I am deprived of all the necessary means of being serviceable; and the responsibility must rest upon those in power, who turn a deaf ear to the distress of the people.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel ROBERT BROWN,
Commanding 12th Regiment F. M.

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 23, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I wrote you some time since, informing you that I had shipped to Fort White 2,000 bushels of corn for the use of the suffering inhabitants of Alachua and Columbia, and requesting you, as the senior officer of the militia in those two counties, to cause it to be equally distributed among those whom you might deem most in want, and least able to provide themselves with subsistence. I have been informed of the arrival of the corn at its place of destination, but have heard nothing from you with regard to its distribution. You will please give the necessary orders on the subject, and advise me of the manner in which it has been disposed of.

I have received no report from you with regard to the number of men of your regiment, and the length of time you may have deemed it necessary to continue them in service. But, to prevent misunderstanding on the subject, I herewith enclose you a copy of a letter which I have addressed to Major Garrason, and which you will please consider as an order directed to you for the same purpose, if the same state of things exists in your county.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Col. ROBT. BROWN,
Commanding 12th regiment Florida Militia.

SUWANEE, FLORIDA, *July* 23, 1838.

DEAR SIR: Your instructions of the 23d ult. have just come to hand; and, in reply, I have to say that I should have informed you of the disposition of the corn sent by you to Fort White, for the sufferers of Alachua and Columbia counties, long before this, but for causes beyond my control. 1. Your letter of instructions accompanying the corn never reached me until about three weeks after its arrival; and 2. The pressure of business on my hands, with a great deal of bad health in the time, and no opportunity of forwarding letters to you. The day I received your letter of instructions I directed my assistant quartermaster to repair to Fort White and make equal distribution of it among the sufferers of the two counties, under the following regulation, viz: Aged and infirm men and their families, widows and orphans, men and their families who were driven from their homes by the Indians, men who were in the Territorial service and their families; prohibiting all who had slaves to support them, or an opportunity of getting elsewhere.

The assistant quartermaster has not yet reported to me his fulfilment of his orders, but as soon as he does I will forward his report to your excellency.

With regard to a report of the troops in the Territorial service, I kept deferring it, thinking I would come on and see you first, but was prevented by the frequent assaults of the enemy; however, a correct report, I believe, accompanies this letter. As regards the time, I saw no law for taking them for a less term than four months, unless sooner discharged; they were enrolled for that time, but some companies fall short of it. I deem it entirely unnecessary to say that their services were valuable and could not be dispensed with, but refer your excellency to the extent of frontier, the

United States forces on that frontier, and our resources for support, and I know that your excellency will be bound to say that we deserve well if we never are paid. The most of these men have been in the United States service the two past summers, and I assure you that they will all concur with me in saying that there have been more and greater calls this summer than ever before, and that their duty has been more arduous.

I therefore hope your excellency will be able shortly to contract a loan that will relieve them, in some degree, from their present distress. Meanwhile,

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

ROBT. BROWN,
Colonel, commanding 12th regiment Florida Militia.

His Excellency the GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA,
Suwanee river, November 24, 1838.

DEAR SIR: It again becomes my painful duty to inform you of a most shocking Indian massacre—I mean the murder of Mr. John Tiffins and family. Mr. Tiffins was bringing his wife and two children out to Florida to see her parents, and, when within a few miles of her father's house, was fallen in with by about seven Indians, between 10 o'clock, A. M. and 12 o'clock, M. He was shot from his horse; the Indians then made an easy capture of his helpless family, and vented their savage spleen by beating them on their heads with their tomahawks. Mrs. Tiffins lived (senseless) about forty hours, but did not speak; her skull was mashed in many places. She died in the arms of her father, Mr. David Mizell. Her children are not yet dead, although the skull of each is fractured in many places by the tomahawk. This melancholy occurrence took place in this county last Monday, not far from the Ocean pond. We are most critically situated. The Indians in the north of us, on the Okefenokee, and on the south, in the nation; our market-road, leading from this to any market accessible to us, passes through their "gangway." We are here, exposed from the Okefenokee down both sides of their "passway" to the nation, and no protection whatever from the army. If nothing can be done by your excellency to protect the frontier. I fear nothing will be done at all; we have stood our ground and suffered much, and have not received even the sympathy of those at a distance. The corn crops were very good here this year, and we have quite plenty of provisions; and I would respectfully beg leave to suggest to your excellency the propriety of ordering out a company or two of militia—one to take post at John's ford, on New river, and the other at the Ocean pond; all of which can be subsisted and foraged in the country, which will save much expense of transportation. These men, kept actively moving, cannot fail to give quiet to a large portion of country, and, in the mean time, break up the Indian passing. I hope your excellency will take prompt measures in some way for our protection, as we have lost all hope of help from the commanding general of the army. Should a different course present itself than the one I recommend, calculated to give as good protection and at less expense, you have but to recommend it, and you will find me ever ready to aid you in carrying out your views. I now have out

a company of militia, who will continue to do duty until I hear from you; at which time their term expires, unless they should be continued in service by your excellency. In haste,

I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient servant,

ROBT. BROWN,
Colonel 12th regiment Florida Militia.

Governor CALL.

SUWANEE RIVER, *November* 24, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I went on to Tallahassee to see you last summer, but you had left for Washington before I reached; since then, I have not been able to hear whether you had returned or not, otherwise I should have come again to see you on the subject of the service performed by the militia of this regiment during the last spring and summer. These men did much hard service, and certainly deserve to be paid. The whole country was under their protection until the last of May or first of June. The dragoons arrived about that time, and then a new field of operations presented itself, which did not relieve them, but rather increased their duty—I mean the extension of their defence to the Okefenokee. I therefore desire and earnestly hope that your excellency will recommend the Legislature to adopt some measures for their payment in your annual message, and I have no doubt that body will be able to make the arrangement.

I shall be on in a few days after the Legislature meets, at which time I hope to see you. With my best wishes for your welfare,

I have the honor to be yours, sincerely,

ROBT. BROWN,
Colonel 12th regiment Florida Militia.

Governor CALL.

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 9, 1838.

DEAR SIR: Owing to my absence from home, I did not receive your letters of the 23d July and 24th of November until last night. I have heard with great pain and regret of the murder by the savages of Mr. Tiffins and family. This horrid butchery must be avenged; it appeals to every heart, and should raise every hand. I approve of the course you have taken. The company you have ordered out, you will continue in active service until General Taylor shall have made the necessary arrangements for the defence of the settlements. I shall write him immediately by express, and you may rely with confidence on his zeal and promptitude in giving every protection in his power to the frontier. It will be gratifying to you, and to our fellow-citizens in East Florida, to learn that, while at Washington, I succeeded in making every arrangement with the Secretary of War necessary to the entire security and defence of our frontier settlers, who have been so long exposed to the ravages of a savage war. I have recommended to him the organization of all the frontier inhabitants capable of bearing arms—the encouragement of all who have abandoned to return to their homes. They are to receive the pay and rations of the army; to constitute their own de-

fence, as far as practicable; and be permitted to cultivate their own fields, and have the benefit of their own labor. I have also recommended the settlement of military colonies on every part of the public land susceptible of cultivation; the men to receive pay, rations, and clothing; to perform military duty within the limits of certain districts, and cultivate the land—a quarter section of which, including their improvements, to be granted to each settler, in absolute property, at the close of the war or final emigration of the Seminole Indians. The whole plan has been approved by the Secretary of War, and has been recommended to Congress, as will appear from the enclosed extract of a letter from the Secretary of War to General Taylor. I believe it will be adopted; and I have, in that event, made arrangements in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama, for the location of several thousand settlers. Under this system, I am confident the war will be closed in twelve months, and we shall have at once an active, hardy, and enterprising population; which will place our claims to a State government beyond controversy. I will recommend the payment of the troops which served in the frontier defence during the last summer, and use my best exertions to have them paid. I shall be very happy to see or hear from you.

Accept the assurance of my high respect. Your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel Robert Brown.

Columbia County, Florida, *December* 10, 1838.

Dear Sir: I addressed you on the subject of our situation in a letter dated 24th of last month, and in that letter I recommended the raising of one or two companies for the protection of our frontier. Since the date referred to, fifteen days have passed away, and our affairs are growing worse every day. I must now urge the raising of at least two entire companies of militia for this frontier, to be continued in service until the commanding general of the army shall send a force sufficient to give protection to the citizens of this county; and this course, if not adopted in a few days, will find much more than half our country depopulated. The assaults of the Indians have become so common, and of such character, that our people are breaking up daily, and are only waiting your action. I most sincerely hope you will take immediate action, without waiting any longer for the regular army. We now have the means in the county of subsisting these men so raised; and it seems to me that it would be madness to defer any longer, while the Indians are murdering, plundering, and harassing our citizens, and that continually. Our country has been in a fearful state of alarm for the last three weeks; and what is the protection afforded us by the army? None: only the moving of a company of dragoons from one station of no great importance to us, to another of as little; and this is what they call complete protection.

I have long seen that we must defend ourselves, or share the fate of many other of our bleeding citizens; and hesitate not in saying, that circumstances justify the calling out of at least two companies of mounted militia.

With my best wishes for your health and happiness, I have the honor to be yours, most sincerely,

R. BROWN.

His Excellency R. K. Call, *Governor of Florida.*

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 19, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 10th inst. I enclose you, herewith, a copy of my answer to yours of the 24th ult. I have not yet heard from General Taylor, but I have no doubt that all the effective men of your county and that of Alachua will be immediately organized and received into the service, on the terms proposed by me to the Secretary of War, which have been adopted by him in his report, and recommended by the President to Congress, as will appear from the message herewith enclosed. General Taylor, ere this, must have received my letter; and I have every confidence in his prompt action for carrying the views of the Government into execution. In the mean time, you are hereby authorized to adopt such temporary measures as you may find necessary for the protection of the inhabitants of your county, relying on the justice and liberality of the General Government for an approval. I need not repeat to you an expression of the deep anxiety I feel for the security and welfare of the frontier inhabitants, who have so long maintained their positions against our savage enemy; and it affords me pleasure to say that I am well convinced that the same sentiments are equally cherished by the commanding general, the Secretary of War, and the President of the United States. Every effort will be made to give security to the settlers, as well as to bring this disastrous war to a close.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Col. ROBERT BROWN, 12*th Regiment F. M.*

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 31, 1838.

DEAR SIR: I have received a letter from General Taylor, in reply to one which I addressed to him on the 9th inst., informing him of the recent murder committed by the Indians in your county, and of the authority I had given you to call a company into service for the defence of the settlements. The General, so far from recognising this company in service, expresses the opinion that, with three companies of dragoons, and two companies of militia he had previously ordered Colonel Twiggs to receive into service, his force will be ample for the defence of the frontier settlements. This being the view taken by the General, the troops I have authorized you to call out will not be recognised by him, and will, therefore, not be paid by the United States. General Taylor has full authority from the Secretary to conduct the war and defend the country in such manner as he may think proper; and the Government will only adopt such measures as he may recommend. Having no funds at my command to pay and subsist troops called out on my own authority, I should hold out to them false hopes of compensation were I to continue them in service after I had learned, or been given to understand, that they will not be recognised by the officers of the Government. Under these circumstances, I feel it my duty to disband all the troops of the Territory serving under my authority. You will, therefore, on the receipt of this, dismiss those of your regiment, unless they should be received and recognised in service by some officer of the Government having competent authority. Had I the means of paying and subsisting the militia, I would at once organize and order into service all the frontier inhabitants capable of bearing arms, for the defence of the settlements. But I cannot think of

practising so great a deception as that of continuing men in service under the expectation of being paid, when I have no means of enabling me to realize their expectation. I have requested General Taylor to have your men mustered, and paid for the time they shall be in service. This I hope will be done; but should I be disappointed in this expectation, I will endeavor to procure pay through the Legislative Council, although I regard this almost as an hopeless effort, in the present state of the country. You will please inform me of the present state of your frontier, and of the force you may have employed in its defence, in order that I may be able to lay the subject properly before the Legislative Council.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel Robert Brown,
Commanding 12th Regiment F. M.

Newnansville, *April* 11, 1838.

Dear Sir: Before I finished my communication to you on the 9th, I was notified that a body of Indians were trailed to within one mile of Newnansville. I immediately moved after them, yet without success. I continued my chase after them yesterday, the 10th, also, without being able to attack them. It was a party that had been in Columbia county, and killed and plundered a Mr. Smith and his son. On Monday another party killed Mr. Nathaniel Jones and his son, on New river, within about thirteen miles of this place. That party was pursued by Captain Mills, as he reported to me yesterday, without success. The inhabitants of Alachua county are in great confusion; they, in most cases, are moving back to Newnansville, or some other post. When I returned yesterday, every part of the town was full of wagons and carts loaded with their articles and families. What heart would not pity the cases of our citizens—after being deprived of the liberty of making the two last crops; and now, the present year, when they have all rushed out, and in a most unparalleled manner endeavored to make up all lost time—now, when they have nearly completed their planting, to be driven away again, it is too shocking for the mind to bear. I think it due to the credit of General Eustis to state to you that I wrote to him on the 8th inst., and he sent two companies of regulars under the command of Major Dearborn, who got here last evening. One of the companies he has kindly offered to station here, which offer was thankfully received by me and the citizens of Newnansville; the other company he expects to station at Charles ferry, on the Suwanee river.

By the advantage of this company being stationed here, it will give me a better opportunity in following the Indians, if my movements are approved by your excellency. I respectfully solicit your excellency to give an order and advise at as early a period as possible, as the citizens are in great confusion on the subject. I trust your excellency will pardon any thing that may be considered unmilitary or exaggerating in this communication, as I write about two o'clock in the morning, after three days' hard service.

I am, sir, with great consideration and respect, yours, respectfully,

J. GARRASON,
Major 6th regiment F. M.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

NEWNANSVILLE, *April* 9, 1838.

SIR: The election in this county resulted in the choice of Wm. J. Mills as colonel, and myself as major, with but very little difficulty or dissenting votes. But there was considerable of debate about the lieutenant colonel's election; and Colonel Mills being absent on business at Washington, I immediately, on being notified of the result of the election, ordered that the battalion or regiment should be organized, which the accompanying copy of elections will show to your excellency. My motive for this communication to you is to request of your excellency that an order might issue from you to enable this battalion to go into the service of the country, with a certainty of being paid for their services, and to ration them and their horses, &c.

To give you an idea of the situation of our country: It was on the 31st of March that it was reported that a considerable body of Indians were seen in about half a mile of Newnansville; I immediately started out with fifteen men to ascertain the fact, but without success. On the three first days of last week, it was still certain that there were scattering Indians in our neighborhood; on Thursday morning Elias Knight, Esq., saw one; on Saturday I received information of a large body being trailed into the San Falaska hammock; they advanced up as high as Colonel Sanchez's plantation. On yesterday, I was out after them with part of Captains Walker's, Ellis's, and Hope's companies, but found no Indians, but plenty of signs; believed to be about from thirty to fifty in number.

Your excellency will perceive that these are circumstances that are immediately under my eye, and I do not wish to trouble you with the many circumstances that are in all our county. I have only mentioned the above; but should your excellency wish a report of the many depredations committed by them in our county, I will with pleasure submit it to you.

I wish, likewise, to state to your excellency that our county is in a worse condition than it has ever been, with the exception of sickness, since the commencement of the war. I have been under the necessity of calling on the different captains for aid in putting down these hostilities if possible. And I must respectfully solicit your excellency's advice on the subject, as my orders will not be obeyed long, without your approving the same. I wish further to state, that there are no Government troops near this place, and that our town is entirely unprotected by them. We have neither arms, ammunition, nor any thing else, except our private arms, and they are generally in bad order, occasioned by being supplied by the Government when they were in service. I would most respectfully suggest to your excellency the propriety of your issuing an order to me to make a requisition on the quartermaster, as also the officers in charge of the ordnance stores at Black creek, for subsistence, forage, arms, and ammunition for the 6th regiment Florida militia.

Sir, from the *situation* of our county I do not think it would be advisable to have the militia of this county attached to that of Columbia—that is, the 6th regiment attached to the 12th—as there are scattering Indians in both counties. Neither do I think it advisable to have the militia attached to the regular service, for their movements are too slow for the present service under consideration. What I would respectfully submit is, that it be done under the faith of the Territory. But as you are Governor and commander-in-chief of said Territory, your advice and orders will be strictly adhered to and obeyed by me.

I have now only to request that you will, on the receipt of this, issue your orders to me, as it is yours to order and mine to obey.

With great consideration and esteem, I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

J. GARRASON,
Major 6th regiment F. M.

His Excellency R. K. CALL.

N. B. I wish also to state, that all the sustenance to the suffering inhabitants has been withdrawn from this place; the officers have removed all the public stores from Newnansville.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 15, 1838.

SIR: I have received your letters of the 9th and 11th instant, accompanied with the election returns of the officers of the 6th regiment of Florida militia, and herewith enclose you their commissions.

I have read with deep regret the distressing account you have given me of the situation of Columbia and Alachua counties; and, had I the power, I would most cheerfully adopt the several measures you have suggested for their defence. But the Government have intrusted the defence of the frontier to the officers of the United States army, and have not authorized me, or given me the means of doing any thing for the protection of the people. The quartermasters and commissaries stationed in East Florida, not being subject to my order, would disregard any requisition made on them by me to supply troops not in the service of the United States; nor will the Government pay the men ordered into service by me, even to save the women and children of the frontier from inevitable destruction, unless on the requisition of the general commanding their own troops. This fact has been fully proven in Middle and West Florida, where I have borrowed and paid out to the troops raised by me for the defence of the frontier $85,000, no part of which has yet been refunded by the General Government. I would, therefore, recommend you to represent the situation of the frontier people to General Eustis, who, I understand, is in the immediate command, and ask of him the necessary supplies and defence. From what I have been informed of his character as an officer, I cannot believe that he will withhold any thing which may be deemed necessary for the protection and security to the settlements. If, however, I am mistaken in this belief, and he should refuse to receive into service a sufficient volunteer force to co-operate with the regular troops in defending the country and driving back the enemy, you are hereby authorized to organize such a force from your battalion, under the authority of the Territory, as will give security to the frontier of Alachua. Should you be compelled to resort to this measure, and the troops thus raised are not hereafter recognised by the Government, I will endeavor to have them paid so soon as funds can be procured for the purpose, by the authority of the Legislative Council. With regard to forage and subsistence, I regret to say that I have not the means of furnishing either. I have been endeavoring for some time past to procure suitable funds to send to New Orleans for a supply of corn for the suffering inhabitants of Alachua and Columbia; but, hitherto, have found it impossible. I am in hopes of procuring a small amount in a short time, and, as soon as practicable, I will send a cargo of corn to Fort White. This is all that I have any hope of accomplish-

ing with the means I now possess, and the authority with which I am invested. I have represented the situation of the country to our Delegate in Congress, and have called on him in the most earnest manner to provide the necessary protection and support for the inhabitants who have suffered so long, and have defended their homes so nobly. Whatever I can do, you may rest assured shall be done for your relief.

Very respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Major J. GARRASON.

NEWNANSVILLE, *June* 12, 1838.

SIR: Our county at this time is much relieved from the Indians, to what it was some time past; but we are not without danger. Agreeably to your communication, authorizing me to raise a sufficient force from my battalion to defend the frontier of Alachua, and an order I had issued previous to my receiving the same, I have kept the whole of the battalion in service; and I still believe it to be necessary, although the Indians, at present, are beaten off from us. But the reason of their leaving our neighborhood is, that we gave them no rest, but were continually after them, as long as they were in our reach.

I beg leave to state to your excellency that, agreeably to your communication of the 18th ultimo, I immediately went to Fort White to receive the corn, but found it in a very bad condition. The corn, although a very good article, was put up in damaged bags, which caused a considerable loss; and I was informed by the owner of the boat that there was a failure in the quantity of two hundred bushels when they received it; and I think there will be a loss of three hundred bushels on account of the bags—making a nett loss of five hundred bushels.

I have been necessarily compelled to purchase a considerable quantity of corn and forage for the horses, while in service, to the amount of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars; and as I am nearly run out of funds by losses by the Indian depredations, and many other causes, I have to request you to inform me on what plan I can have the money refunded to me again, as I am in great need of it, to carry on the service; for forage and provisions are very scarce and hard to come at in this county, and I feel desirous to do all I can to close the war. I should write more particulars, but Adjutant Byrd will give you this communication, and he is prepared to give you any information you may require, as he has been with me in most cases, and can inform you verbally.

Major Beckham informs me that he will accompany Adjutant Byrd to Tallahassee. He was elected lieutenant colonel on the 9th instant. Major Beckham is a gentleman that deserves the promotion of his fellow-citizens and the inhabitants of Alachua for his past services. Nothing would have prevented his having an almost unanimous vote, but the question not being decided concerning the tie at the last election.

If your excellency would think proper to commission him, it would give satisfaction to most of the citizens and voters of Alachua county, although, perhaps, not strictly within the letter of the law. As relates to myself, it will

be left entirely with you to decide, as I am perfectly satisfied with what your excellency's wisdom decides and directs.

With great consideration and respect, I am, sir, your humble servant,

J. GARRASO N

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Tallahassee, *June* 23, 1838.

Dear Sir: I have just received your letter of the 12th instant, and regret very much to hear of the loss on the corn I caused to be shipped for the use of the suffering inhabitants of Alachua and Columbia. It was with great difficulty this quantity (2,000 bushels) was procured, and I shall be unable to send any additional supply.

With regard to the sum you have paid for corn for the use of the horses in service, I am sorry to inform you that I possess no means by which the amount can be refunded to you. In my last letter to you on that subject, I think I stated, distinctly, that I should be unable to furnish either forage or subsistence for the Territorial troops, and authorized you to raise so many men only as might be necessary for the protection of the settlements. Not having received a report from you, I was not apprized, until yesterday, that you considered your whole battalion in the service of the Territory. The limited authority and means which I possess, under the resolution of the Legislative Council, will not justify me in keeping so large a force in service longer than would be absolutely necessary to drive the Indians out of the settlements. Had I the means of supporting a Territorial army, I should not hesitate in employing one; but, under existing circumstances, I should do equal injustice to your battalion, and the rest of the Territory, were I to recognise them in service, and depend on taxation to raise a fund for their payment. The United States are bound to protect our citizens from the depredations of the Indians; and it was only in those cases where the Government neglected or refused to give that protection that I authorized Territorial troops to be raised. I am now informed that General Taylor and Colonel Twiggs are fully authorized to receive into the service of the United States any number of men they may deem necessary for the defence of the settlements. You will, therefore, tender your command to them, and consider it no longer in the service of the Territory, unless, from extreme necessity, a subsequent order should be given for that purpose, on the refusal of these officers to provide for the defence of the frontier. I regret to be under the necessity of adopting this course. I duly appreciate the zeal and patriotism of the people of Alachua; but knowing, as I do, the difficulties, if not the impossibility, of procuring Territorial funds for their payment, I cannot think of retaining them in service one day longer than absolute necessity may require.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Major J. Garrason.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 31, 1838.

SIR: I enclose you herewith a copy of a letter which I have just received from Col. Dupont, commanding the militia of Gadsden county, informing me of the murder recently committed by the Indians on a family within twenty miles of this place, and at a point where, hitherto, no danger has been apprehended; and also a copy of my letter to Major Dearborn. The Indians are now masters of the country situated between the Apalachicola and Ocklockney rivers, and between the seaboard and our settlements, presenting an area of more than fifty miles in extent. Their numbers are not fully ascertained; but traces of fifty or sixty warriors have been discovered, and it is believed they have a much greater force. There is no barrier to prevent them from communicating with the Apalachicola bands, with whom it is believed they have constant intercourse; and, unless they are expelled from their present position, I have no doubt in a very short time every warrior of the latter band will be united with them in hostility against us, and the counties of Leon and Gadsden, which have until now enjoyed comparative tranquillity, will exhibit a wide spread scene of ruin and devastation. To obviate these disasters, I promptly ordered into service three companies of mounted men, the command of which, you will perceive, was tendered to Major Dearborn, for the purpose of co-operating with the regular troops, and of driving the enemy from our settlements. In reply to my communication on this subject, Major Dearborn informs me that he is positively ordered not to receive mounted men into service, and has made a requisition on me for two companies of foot. I regret to inform you that at this season of the year footmen cannot be raised in this Territory, without resorting to draughts, which are exceedingly difficult to execute, and which, under our system, has been, and will always be, attended with a delay which must be fatal to those whose safety depends on raising men by this process. Our citizens are ready, almost with one voice, to mount their horses and march against the enemy; but, without forage and without subsistence, nothing can be accomplished, and the Executive of the Territory without funds is unable to supply them. I cannot believe that the Government of the United States will stop to calculate the difference in expense between mounted men and footmen, while the lives of hapless women and children are exposed to the most imminent peril, and when their safety requires the most prompt and decisive action. Delay must be fatal to hundreds of persons, and thousands of private property. My duty requires me to defend both; I cannot hesitate in the course to be pursued. I shall order a battalion of two hundred and fifty mounted men to take the field, and pursue the Indians until they shall have been driven beyond the reach of annoyance. I tender you the command of these troops, and have to request that they may be furnished with the necessary transportation, arms, ammunition, forage, and sustenance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Lieut. Col. J. GREEN, *U. S. 6th Infantry.*

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 31, 1838.

SIR: In reply to the communication which you did me the honor to hand to me this day, relative to the employment of mounted men to operate against

the hostile Indians that are at present overrunning the country, murdering the inhabitants, and destroying their property, I have the honor to state to your excellency, in reply, that Major Dearborn informed me a few days since that he had been specially forbidden to receive mounted men to be mustered into the service. The instructions which Major Dearborn has received on this subject must necessarily govern me, as his successor in command of these troops for this section of country. Being satisfied in my own mind of the necessity of employing a mounted force, I will take the earliest opportunity of forwarding your communication, with the other correspondence which accompanied it, to Brevet Brigadier General Z. Taylor, commanding the army in Florida; at the same time, it will afford me great satisfaction to do any thing in my power to meet your excellency's views. With regard to the prosecution of energetic measures against these murderers, I am sensible there is no time to be lost, and that, if they are not soon checked, the border settlements will be laid in ashes and the inhabitants murdered.

I have the honor to be, sir, your excellency's obedient servant,

J. GREEN,
Lieut. Col. 6th Infantry.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Quincy, Fl., *July* 28, 1838.

Dear Sir: Upon the receipt of your communication in Tallahassee I immediately proceeded to Quincy, where I found the two young men who had survived the attack upon their father's family. From the information derived from these young men, I was induced to hope that the girl, who was stated to have been killed, might possibly have escaped; and upon which supposition I found that my fellow-citizens had organized a body of twenty-five men, to be ready to march as soon as I should arrive from Tallahassee. Under this conviction, and with a view, moreover, to pay the last tribute of respect to a murdered fellow-citizen, we started from Quincy at 6 o'clock, P. M., and reached the scene of murder at 8 o'clock next morning. On approaching we beheld a scene which can scarcely be portrayed to the imagination. The whole premises had been reduced to ashes; the domestic animals, such as hogs, dogs, &c., which had all been killed, were lying around the smoking ruins; and every thing gave evidence of the most wanton cruelty and mischief. Finding the signs very recent and numerous, I immediately took measures to prevent a surprise, and ordered the spy guard to make the necessary search for the bodies of the murdered victims. Major William O. Kenan, who had command of the guard, soon returned with the intelligence that he had discovered the bodies of both father and daughter, both dreadfully mangled, particularly the old gentleman, who had his throat cut. After having interred the bodies as decently as our means would admit, I commenced making such observations as might be necessary to guide us in our future operations. The following is the result.

We discovered the heads of seven beeves which had been killed by the enemy, and, from the closest calculation which we could make while on the spot, there could not have been less than thirty or forty bushels of corn gathered from the field; in addition to this quantity, they took about twenty

bushels of old corn from the crib, which they carried a short distance and shelled, leaving the cobs. At the river bank, which is a short distance from the house, I discovered four distinct landings where they had loaded their boats. The paths leading from the field and house to the river were much trodden, and, from every indication around the premises, I am induced to believe that the number of the enemy could not have been less than fifty or sixty. One of the young men states that he counted about fifty in one gang.

Under the existing circumstances, and holding the relation that I do to the citizens of this county, I feel a weight of responsibility which renders my situation far from enviable. After the maturest deliberation upon the measures best to be adopted, I have arrived at the following conclusion, to wit: that our measures must be of an offensive, instead of a defensive character; for, with an extent of frontier exceeding one hundred miles, I feel the means at my disposal wholly inadequate to the purpose of defence. I have come to the conclusion that it will require a much larger force to give protection to the frontier, acting upon the defensive, than it would to enter the enemy's country and drive him from his fastnesses. Under these convictions, I have delayed taking any steps for the present. I will endeavor to see you early in the week, at which time I will communicate more at large. I am induced to believe that, if the regular troops now in the country would operate energetically, they might possibly capture this lawless band, as they will no doubt concentrate in the vicinity of their late booty. It is possible, however, that they may have intended these provisions for a trip to the east, as they gave every evidence of being well supplied with boats.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

C. H. DUPONT,
Colonel, commanding 5th reg. F. M.

R. K. Call, *Governor of Florida.*

Tallahassee, *July* 28, 1839.

Sir: The distress and suffering of the frontier inhabitants of Florida, and the danger and destitution to which they are continually exposed, have induced me to send a deputation from among our most intelligent and respectable citizens to confer with and to represent to your excellency the true condition of this Territory, in the hope that measures may be adopted to avert in future the evils and perils to which we have been so long exposed. For this purpose, I have named the Hon. Thos. Randall, the Hon. Charles Downing, General Thomas Brown, Colonel George S. Hawkins, Colonel H. W. Braden, Colonel R. Fitzpatrick, and Mr. William Brockenborough. Most of these gentlemen have served in the different campaigns and expeditions against the Indians, and have acquired much experience in the war. Their extensive interests are identified with the fate of Florida. They are acquainted with the situation of the country and the character of the enemy, and will be able to give you much valuable information. I hope your excellency will pardon the liberty I have taken in presenting them to you for this purpose, as well as for the suggestions and remarks I shall venture to make.

I am aware, sir, of the deep interest you have felt, and still feel, no less in the successful prosecution of this harassing war, than for the safety and

prosperity of this country; and nothing but a sense of duty to the people of Florida could have induced me to intrude on your attention.

I have been an anxious spectator of the passing events of this war. I have witnessed the heroic and manly struggle of the frontier settler to defend his family and his home against the assaults of the enemy. But I have seen house after house, and family after family, fall beneath the hands of the savage. I have seen settlement after settlement recede before the ravages of the infuriated Seminole, leaving behind them a depopulated country and a waste of smoking ruins. Step by step has the enemy advanced on his path of blood and desolation. He has added hundreds of square miles, which were once inhabited by an industrious and prosperous people, to the silence and gloom of the wilderness. His desolating march has swept over the country with the fury of the whirlwind, and has brought the frontier within a few miles of the capital. Thousands of private property has been destroyed, and hundreds of our citizens have perished. Emigration has been suspended, and our planting interests measurably neglected. Such, sir, has been the success of the enemy; and such is the melancholy picture which this country presents, after a war of near four years' continuance, in which millions and millions of public treasure have been liberally expended to support the armies operating in Florida. And what, sir, are the trophies and the advantages we are permitted to display against this humiliating catalogue of our losses and our sufferings? What territory have we won from the enemy? Not a square foot beyond the reach of the guns of our camps and our fortresses; and even now, the soldiers, in passing from post to post on the roads by which they are connected, are sometimes shot down by the lurking and unseen savages. No citizen on our border, for the space of three hundred miles, can leave his house in pursuit of his daily avocations, without danger to his own person, and the more painful apprehension of finding his family butchered on his return. Notwithstanding the presence of a large regular force on this frontier, within the last twelve months many of the Indians have emigrated with their families to Middle Florida, where they have built houses, cleared lands, and cultivated crops during the present season. Their successful advance has been as steady and as unfaltering as the march of time; and, unless arrested in their progress, the last house, and the last inhabitant of Florida, must eventually share the fate of those that have already fallen.

I am aware, sir, that Florida has been reproached and most unjustly censured for not defending herself against the inroads of the savages. With her sparse population, (near one-half of whom are slaves,) scattered over a vast extent of territory—with a frontier vulnerable at every point for the distance of more than three hundred miles—without the means of procuring arms, ammunition, and provisions—but little could reasonably have been expected of her. She has, however, with her feeble force and limited resources, ever been ready to do her duty. She has done much to repel invasion and protect those exposed to danger; and that she has done no more, is mainly to be attributed to the want of arms, ammunition, and other supplies, which have been frequently withheld from us when most required, by those who alone had the power to furnish them. As a proof of this, I beg leave respectfully to call your attention to the accompanying correspondence which I have, at different times, held with the officers of the army and of the militia of Florida on this and other subjects connected with the defence of the frontier. Allow me to say, sir, that I can commu-

nicate several instances, occurring under my own personal observation, where whole families have been butchered by the enemy, in consequence of the refusal of the officers of the Government to furnish from the abundant public stores the supplies required to support the troops ordered out by me for the defence of the frontier. There are, however, some honorable instances to the contrary; and, among them, it affords me great pleasure to say that from Lieutenant Colonel Green, Major Charles Mapes, and Captain Heintzelman, of the quartermaster's department, I have at all times received every aid and assistance in their power to give.

It is not my desire to cast reflections upon any one, and I shall offer no remark on any part of this correspondence. It is for you to decide whether the measures I have at different times proposed for the defence of the frontier have been properly regarded; whether the protection I have recommended has been given; and whether much of the suffering and destruction of human life which has ensued might not have been avoided by the adoption of these suggestions. There is one fact unquestionable: Since the 1st of February last more blood has been shed, and more property has been destroyed, in Middle Florida, than there has been during the whole period of the war beside. The enemy still hovers on our borders, threatening every frontier house with destruction, though there are twelve companies of regular troops in summer quarters west of the Suwanee river and east of the Wakulla. I have at this time two companies of the Florida troops in the pay of, and subsisted by, the Territory; and I shall employ as many more as the limited resources of Florida will support, until the enemy shall have been driven beyond the reach of annoyance to the settlements. Of this, sir, you may be well assured: Florida cannot long endure her present condition; the ravages of this war upon her substance and the lives of her people may justly be compared to the devouring cancer, which first appears on the exterior of the human body; it increases slowly and steadily, but its consummation is the destruction of life. Not less certain must be the result of this war, in the slaughter or expulsion of every white inhabitant of Florida, unless more energetic and persevering measures are adopted for its prosecution.

I shall attempt no criticism upon the campaigns of the last two winters, nor will I discuss the policy or propriety of the truce lately entered into with the Seminoles. The former failed to produce the desired result. The latter has been most treacherously and perfidiously violated by the enemy; and this exterminating war is now renewed, with all its horrors. The untiring perseverance of General Jesup and General Taylor, their zeal, energy, and skill, entitled them to greater success and higher distinction than they have acquired in this war. Nor do I believe other generals will be more successful, acting on the policy and plan heretofore pursued by the Government. The great error, in my opinion, which has been committed, has been in the shortness of the period in which our armies have held the field. Against this policy I entered my most earnest remonstrance with the then Secretary of War, when the army retired in the spring of 1836, leaving the enemy to riot in the blood and plunder of our people; I then urged the continued prosecution of the war, until its final termination, without regard to seasons. Three years' experience has confirmed me in the opinion I then entertained; and had this policy been pursued, I doubt not the war would long since have been brought to a successful

and honorable conclusion, and with less than half the loss of life and expenditure of treasure it has already cost the Government.

The army has never remained long enough in the field to produce any decisive result. These short expeditions of a few months or weeks, requiring, on each occasion, a new outfit of transportation and supplies, have had a tendency to exhaust the resources of the Government, while, by their failure to subdue the enemy, they have added to his confidence, and confirmed his resistance.

Be assured, sir, that the warlike Seminoles, in their native hammocks, are not to be subdued in a campaign of two or three months; nor will they even be dispirited by such operations, when they know that the army will retire into summer quarters with the first appearance of spring, leaving them undisputed masters of the field. So long as they shall enjoy nine months in the year secure from pursuit—so long as they are permitted to cultivate their fields in peace, and prosecute this predatory warfare on the frontier inhabitants with impunity, they will continue to resist our power. The enemy has shown himself too treacherous for negotiation. The last hope of subduing him by kindness, and closing the war by conciliatory measures, must have expired with the late victims of his treachery and cruelty. "War to the knife"—uncompromising, exterminating war—is his motto and his determination. If it is to be closed by the success of our arms, rely on it, sir, it must be prosecuted without regard to seasons. The pursuit of the enemy must be persevering and continuous, without halt, truce, or parley, until he shall be convinced both of our power and our unyielding determination to subdue him. For my own part, I do not believe, sir, that the end of time will find the Seminoles a conquered people, unless there should be a change in the manner of conducting the war.

I will not pretend to say that the present army of the United States, composed for the most part of officers and men reared in a more northern latitude, unaccustomed to the burning sun of the south, can prosecute the war in Florida during the summer months without much hazard and loss. The experienced generals who command the army are much better calculated than myself to decide this question. But for the people of the south and west, I am prepared to speak. There are men in Florida, Georgia, and the neighboring States, who, if permitted, will take the field, and hold it through every vicissitude and change of season; men who will not halt for the summer's heat or winter's cold, until the enemy shall have been finally conquered. It is such a force as this, sir, that I desire to see imbodied for the prosecution of the Florida war. And, if authorized to do so, I have every reason to believe that I can in a few weeks have one or two brigades ready for service. With a view of making a fair experiment with this force, if approved, I would suggest the propriety of assigning a particular district for it to operate in, where it will be subject alone to the orders of its own officers, who will be responsible for any failure of enterprise within its limits. This district should embrace the frontier of Middle and West Florida, and extend as far south as the Withlacoochie, and a line due east from its source to the Atlantic. In presenting this plan of operation, I am actuated by no unkind feelings towards the army of the United States, which has at all times been distinguished for its gallantry, but by an ardent desire to relieve the people of this Territory from the horrors and calamities of a savage war, which has been so long maintained on its borders. If, in conjunction with this plan of operation,

encouragement is given to emigration by granting a bounty of land, and allowing pay and rations to those who will settle the country and enrol themselves for service, in a few months there would be a sufficient population of hardy, enterprising men, located in the peninsula, to hold their positions against the whole force of the Indians. When this perfidious and savage people, who disregard all pledges, however solemnly made, and who cannot be won by kindness and conciliation, however sincerely proffered, shall see, instead of the frontier settlements giving way before them, a white population making permanent settlements in the wilderness, they will no longer hope for success in their desperate resistance, and will be satisfied to emigrate from the country.

For the defence of the frontier settlements, allow me, sir, to call your attention to the plan I suggested to the Secretary of War, in a letter which I had the honor to address to him on that subject, dated the 4th of October last. Had this plan been adopted, I entertain the belief that the present settlements in Florida would not only have been entirely free from danger, but that the line of frontier would have been advanced far beyond its present boundary; that the numerous plantations from which the inhabitants have been driven during the war would have been reoccupied and cultivated during the present year; thus driving the Indians within more narrow limits, and producing a large quantity of corn for the use of the army during the next campaign. Should you approve of the plan then suggested, its execution may yet contribute greatly to the security of the present frontier inhabitants. In a conversation held with the Secretary of War on the subject, he expressed himself favorably disposed to this plan, and he gave an order for its partial execution; but the commanding general considered the order addressed to his discretion, and it was never carried into execution.

If the suggestions I have ventured to make should be deemed unworthy of consideration, I hope they may at least induce your excellency to examine into the present situation of this Territory, and provide for its inhabitants a better system of defence. If the war raged only at a distance, and the lives and fortunes of our people were secure from danger, we might, like other citizens of the United States, look with calmness on the scene of conflict, and leave the arms of the nation to vindicate their own reputation. But while our slumbers are nightly broken by the yell of the savages—while our property is arrested from our possession, and our wives and children are perishing in the flames of our own dwellings—we can no longer be silent. We must invoke the constituted authorities for protection; but, above all, we ask that we may be furnished with the means of protecting ourselves, and defending those who are dearer than our own existence.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

His Excellency MARTIN VAN BUREN,
President of the United States.

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 5, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose a copy of my correspondence with Colonel William Davenport, of the United States army, from which

you will perceive that he has repeatedly refused to furnish supplies for the troops of the Territory, which I have thought necessary for the defence of the frontier. After his first refusal, I enclosed to him a copy of your letter, authorizing me, in cases of emergency, to call out a militia force not exceeding 300 men, and requiring the officers of the Government to furnish them with supplies. I considered the massacre of thirteen persons in one night by the fugitive Creek Indians such an emergency as required the exercise of the authority which you had conferred on me, particularly as Colonel Davenport refused positively to move against these Indians with the ample force under his command. His reasons for this you will find in his letters. I should be content to submit this correspondence to your consideration without a remark, were it not for the letter of Colonel Davenport of the 21st of May, which was evidently intended more for the War Department and the eye of the commanding general than for myself. In this letter, the Colonel has, with much ingenuity, made out a plausible excuse for his own conduct; while he has, in my opinion, indulged in unmerited censure and unbecoming remarks on the conduct of the people of this Territory. A brief narration of facts will place both in their proper light. On the 11th of February the Indians renewed their attacks on the frontier settlements of Middle Florida, which were continued with short intervals until about the middle of March. So soon as General Taylor, then at Tampa Bay, heard of this unexpected outbreak on the frontier, (for he no doubt believed he had provided an ample force for its protection,) he ordered Colonel Davenport, with four companies of the 1st regiment of infantry, to proceed, by steamboat, to St. Mark's, where a company of dragoons were ordered to join him. These troops, with those previously stationed in Middle and West Florida, gave Colonel Davenport, as I am informed, a command consisting of fourteen or fifteen companies of regular troops. He arrived at St. Mark's on the 5th or 6th of March, with the four companies of the 1st infantry. He was directed by General Taylor to confer with me, but, to the best of my recollection, he was ordered to commence his operations north and west of the enemy, so as to dislodge the fugitive Creeks from West Florida, and drive the whole Indian force to the west of the Suwanee. On the evening of the 6th of March he had a personal interview with me, and made me acquainted with his instructions. I then urged him, by every argument I was capable of making, to proceed, without delay, against the Creek Indians. I informed him of the danger they threatened to the settlements, by permitting them to remain in the situation they then held, and offered him any number of militia he might require to co-operate with him in the expedition. But the Colonel declined moving against the Indians, on the ground that the season was too far advanced to commence a campaign. It is true, as stated by him, that Captain Hutter had reported that the Creeks had expressed a willingness to emigrate, provided they were permitted to go by land; but this was some two months before, and must have been known to General Taylor at the time he gave his orders to Col. Davenport. The Indians had not come in, nor was there, at that time, any prospect of their doing so. At this period, every house on the frontier of Middle Florida was exposed to the utmost danger; yet on the 11th of March, as you will perceive from my letter of that date, the four companies of the 1st infantry remained encamped at St. Mark's, and not until some days after did they move out to take the positions I requested them to occupy in that letter. The Colonel mentions having made a requisition on

me for four companies of volunteers, to serve for twelve months—two of horse, and two of foot. He speaks of the delay in raising these troops, as though it had caused a disappointment in his plan of operations. The ostensible object of requiring these troops, as set forth in his letter of the 21st of May, was to dislodge the Indians from Patterson's hammock. He says, "that I might do this with the greatest certainty, I thought best to employ in this service men better acquainted with these fastnesses than the regular soldiers pretend to be. With this object in view, I called on your excellency for four companies of Florida volunteers, to serve for twelve months, agreeably to a law of the Legislative Council on the 11th of March," &c. Now, sir, the place called Patterson's hammock does not exceed eight or ten miles square. It is situated about 40 miles from St. Mark's, with a good public road leading from that place almost within sight of it. The company of dragoons ordered from the east to join Colonel Davenport's command must have marched within a few miles of this hammock, and were alone sufficient to have routed every Indian from it. And there were several other companies of regular troops stationed not far distant from that hammock, attended by experienced guides, and fully competent to the performance of this duty. Before the arrival of Colonel Davenport or the reinforcements brought with him, Major Noel, under the orders of Colonel Green, with his command, penetrated this hammock; and, but for the wound he received by the accidental discharge of his own pistol, no doubt is entertained but that he would have driven out every Indian. One of the mounted companies required by Colonel Davenport was raised, mustered into service for twelve months, and about the 15th of April, in conjunction with another company of volunteers, for six months. A number of our citizens and the regular troops made a drive for the Indians in this celebrated hammock. But the expedition had been so long delayed, the Indians had abandoned it. On the 28th of April I received a letter from Colonel Davenport, informing me that the second company of mounted men ordered to be raised for twelve months had failed to rendezvous at the time and place appointed. He says, "I conclude he (the captain) has not been able to raise a company; and I am the less concerned at it, as I already have, in my opinion, as many mounted men as the service requires in this quarter." In the same letter, he asks to be informed whether he may any longer expect the two foot companies, or either of them, asked for in his letter of the 11th of March. To this letter I gave an immediate reply; and informed him, with regret, that volunteer footmen to serve for twelve months could not be raised in this Territory at that time; but that as many mounted volunteers as he might require could be obtained. I informed him that footmen could only be raised by draught, and for four months, agreeably to the laws of the Territory, and, if required, a draught should be ordered to raise them. No reply was made to this until the 21st of May, when the Colonel seems to have thought it necessary, in answer to my letter calling on him to make an expedition against the Creek Indians, (who had then recently committed a number of murders,) to speak of the delay and disappointment in not getting these two companies of foot for twelve months: He says, "I did not expect you to offer me horsemen; I had not asked for four months' men." In his letter of the 28th of April, he says: "I had flattered myself, with their aid, (the two companies of foot asked for, for twelve months,) I could operate against the fugitive Creeks to the west of the Wakulla, without too much weakening my line

of defence." Now, if the Colonel had really been in want of troops, it does appear to me that he would not have been so very fastidious in his choice as to refuse to receive mounted volunteers for twelve months, or draughted footmen for four months; nor can I see the necessity of raising men for twelve months, when nine, at least, out of the twelve, are to be spent in summer quarters. In addition to the large regular force employed on this frontier during the present year, there have been two companies of mounted volunteers, and a company of draughted militia a part of the time; and yet it is a fact well known, that the Indians have built houses, cleared lands, and cultivated crops west of the Suwanee, and the frontier of Middle Florida has suffered more than it ever did when defended alone by four companies of Florida militia. The Colonel has thought it necessary to speak of some persons who fled from this Territory to avoid a draught; and this is now, no doubt, a matter of record in the War Department. When explained, this will not be considered a matter of reproach against the citizens of Florida, among whom there is as much character, respectability, and spirit, as will be found in any part of America. The laws of this Territory, however, make aliens and transient persons, who have been ten days previously in the Territory, liable to draught; and it is not at all remarkable that such persons, having but little to detain them in the country, and no permanent residence, should leave the Territory, sooner than serve a campaign of four months against the Indians, or even to remain in summer quarters that length of time. It is true that some persons of this description did run away at the time mentioned by Colonel Davenport; but it has rarely occurred that any citizen of the Territory, when draughted and required to do so, has not served either by himself or substitute. In speaking of Captain Byrd's company of draughted men, the colonel says, "of the whole number draughted, very few of them are now in the company." This statement was also true, and yet it was calculated to make a false impression; for the company was at that time full, or very nearly so, though the greater part of the men were substitutes authorized by the laws of the Territory.

I have been thus particular, sir, in commenting on the letter of Colonel Davenport of the 21st of May, not with a view of doing him injury, (for I have no such desire,) but to do justice to the people of Florida, who, in my opinion, have been unjustly and illiberally assailed. With regard to the refusal of Colonel Davenport to furnish the supplies I have required for the defence of the frontier, I have nothing to say: the facts are now before you, and are submitted without a remark. It is proper, however, that I should inform you that I have now two companies of mounted men in the pay of, and subsisted by, the Territory; and that I shall employ as many more as the limited resources of the Territory can support, until every frontier settler shall be relieved from danger.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

Copies of the documents referred to in R. K. Call's letter of August 5th, 1839, addressed to the honorable J. R. Poinsett.

HEADQUARTERS, ST. MARK'S, M. F.,
March 11, 1839.

SIR: Regarding it as a duty to use all means in my power to give protection to all the frontier inhabitants, and believing the aid of part of them necessary to enable me to effect this end, so much desired by all of us, I have the honor to request of your excellency four companies of militia.

Upon the supposition that they can best perform the service which will be required of them by being a part mounted and a part on foot, I have to request two companies of each, to serve for one year unless sooner discharged.

It is desirable that they be raised, any way you may think best, as early as practicable; and when organized agreeably to law, (notice being given,) an officer will attend at the time and place of rendezvous to muster them into the service of the United States.

I have the honor to be your excellency's obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 11, 1839.

DEAR SIR: I regret that it will be out of my power to visit St. Mark's to-morrow, as I had intended; but, on reflection, I can find nothing material to add to the suggestions I have already made in my verbal communications with you relative to the defence of this frontier, which is now exposed to the greatest danger, and is suffering from the repeated and continued attacks and depredations of the enemy. Allow me again to repeat my earnest request that one company of the troops under your command may be stationed on or near the St. Augustine road, midway between Charles's ferry and San Pedro; one company midway between San Pedro and the Oscilla ferry; one company near the natural bridge of the St. Mark's; one company at Richardson's, near the head of the Wakulla; and one at the Six-mile spring, on the railroad. These, with the post already established, should be connected by a chain of scouts to pass daily from post to post, and thus cover the whole line of frontier. In advance of these posts, I propose to place the volunteer companies, now raising, which will be tendered to you for service. They should be required to scout the whole country from the settlements to the sea-coast, which would, it is believed, give entire protection to Middle Florida.

Yours, respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel WM. DAVENPORT, *U. S. Army.*

WACISSA, *March* 22, 1839.

DEAR SIR: Your excellency's letter of the 20th is at hand. You will please remember that the company of the 1st infantry stationed near the

natural bridge, on the St. Mark's, was put there by your particular desire. However, if it is of no service there, I will use it elsewhere, where I have use for it. My order to him was to locate at the place mentioned by Captain Byrd, if he thought proper, after examining it. I presume he concluded that it was not a point promising health. We have been in active pursuit of the Indians since the conflict with Powell, and I do not yet despair of some success. We shall, at least, if I am not deceived, drive them to the east of the Suwanee before they can get rest.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAVENPORT,
Colonel commanding.

Governor R. K. CALL, *Tallahassee.*

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 23, 1839.

DEAR SIR: Immediately after the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., I gave the necessary orders for raising, for the term of twelve months, four companies of volunteers (two of foot, and the same number of mounted men) agreeably to your requisition. I have now the honor to inform you that one company of mounted men will be ready at San Pedro to be mustered into service on the 25th instant, which I have requested Captain Griffin, adjutant general of the army of Florida, to inspect and muster into service. It may require some time to organize the remaining three companies, as the term for which the law requires them to be raised is longer than men are generally willing to engage. As soon as practicable, however, they shall be raised and reported to you for service. The company of militia under the command of Captain Byrd will be ready for muster and inspection on Wednesday next, at the camp, on the road between Magnolia and Camp Wacissa. A part of the men have already been in service some time. I desire that the company may be mustered in such manner as to secure to them the pay to which they may be entitled. They were raised when the settlements were exposed to great danger—two or three at a time, as they were assembled, without waiting for a systematic organization. From the conversation I have had with you on the subject, I have considered both this and Captain Rowle's company already under your command. The latter, like the former, was, from necessity, ordered into service before it was completed; and, as it has been constantly on the scout in service, I cannot say whether it yet contains the requisite number. You will please give such orders for its muster and future service as you may think proper.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Colonel DAVENPORT,
United States army.

TALLAHASSEE, *March* 23, 1839.

DEAR SIR: I have just received your letter of 22d instant, in reply to mine of the 20th, in which you observe: "You will please remember that

the company of the 1st infantry, stationed near the natural bridge, on the St. Mark's, was put there by your particular desire. However, if it is of no service there, I will use it elsewhere, where I have use for it." From this remark, it would seem that you consider this company actually at the place where I requested it to be stationed. Such is not the case. I understand that it is some five or six miles distant from the place I recommended. When I requested a company to be stationed at or near the natural bridge of the St. Mark's, it was with a view of having it placed near enough to be of some service in guarding that pass, and not with a design of having it placed some five or six miles off, and within a few hundred yards of the headquarters of another company, where it would and must be entirely unnecessary. Subsequent to my request, you informed me that you had ordered this company to Richmond, on the St. Mark's; which I considered a very good position. On learning that the company had taken post *eight miles* from that place, alongside of Captain Byrd's company of Florida militia, I communicated this intelligence to you, and expressed the opinion that its presence was unnecessary there, and not unnecessary at or near the natural bridge of the St. Mark's, where I had requested it to be placed. I am thus particular in replying to this part of your letter, with *no other* object than to acquit myself of the supposed inconsistency of recommending a station for the troops, and then immediately condemning it as unnecessary. I wish it also remembered that, in recommending a station at the natural bridge and at the Six-mile spring on the railroad, it was only temporary, until you should receive further information with regard to the fugitive Creek Indians in West Florida. As you expressed an unwillingness to send these companies to a distance until you received this intelligence, I shall be truly grateful to hear that the party in pursuit of the Indians, who remained so long depredating on this frontier, has succeeded in routing and driving them east of the Suwanee.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel WILLIAM DAVENPORT,
United States army.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT WACISSA, M. F.
March 31, 1839.

SIR: I did not have the honor to receive your excellency's letter of the 23d inst. until my arrival here yesterday. I regret there should be any difference of opinion between us as regards the station of that company of the 1st infantry on the road from St. Mark's to Richmond. It was certainly my wish to station it agreeably to your desire, and, I may add, that I [regret I] have failed to do so. You requested in your letter of the 11th inst., which was duly received, "that one company of the troops under your command be stationed at or near the natural bridge of the St. Marks;" and it was in accordance with this request the company was ordered there. After everything belonging to the company was in the wagon, and the company paraded to march, I was visited by Captain Byrd, who informed me *that he was stationed* at the natural bridge, and could guard that pass, and that he thought I had better send the company to Richmond. This I mentioned to Captain Day, and told him to look at that point, and, if it promised health, to occupy it. I have not seen the Captain since, but presume that he did

examine it, and came to the conclusion that it could not be a healthy place. requested Captain Byrd to go with him, and show him the position he thought he should occupy with a hope to be useful. Some three hours afterwards I met with you, and acquainted you with the opinions of Captain Byrd. You replied that he knew the country better than you, and Richmond would probably be the best position of the two. By this statement you will see that I never ordered a company to take post at Richmond; and if you ever told me that you wished one there, I have forgotten it. Captain Day was ordered to take post at or near the natural bridge, but was told by me, at the instant he was about to move, that he might go as high up as Richmond, should he think that place more favorable to health, after looking at it. The interview I had with Captain Byrd, above referred to, was the first time I heard he had a company at the natural bridge. I may further state to your excellency, that your letter acquainting me of the time and place Captain Byrd's company would be ready to be mustered into service, did not reach me until yesterday. As Captain Griffin, who waited on you, was sent here to perform that duty, I thought you would have given him the notice. This I mention by way of an apology for not having an officer in attendance. To-day I sent an express to Captain Byrd, informing him that I will be at his camp at 10 o'clock A. M. on Tuesday next, and muster his company into the service of the United States. Wishing further information from you, I shall visit Tallahassee in the course of four or five days, if not prevented by some unforeseen occurrence. The Indians, as I presume you have already heard, escaped us. After hunting about for several days, every trace of them was lost, and all our efforts availed nothing.

I am, with great respect, your excellency's most obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. A., commanding.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Tallahassee, Florida.

Headquarters, Fort Wacissa,
April 28, 1839.

Sir: Captain Langford visited me at Fort Roger Jones some six days since, and gave me notice that he would have a company of mounted men ready to be mustered on Saturday next, (yesterday.) Having disappointed me on a former occasion, I instructed him to march it to Fort Wacissa, where it would be received and mustered into the service of the United States.

He has not attended, agreeably to his appointment, nor have I heard from him since. I conclude he has not been able to raise a company; and I am the less concerned at it, as I already have, in my opinion, as many mounted men as the state of the service requires in this quarter.

Owing to circumstances beyond my control, I do not expect service from Captain Rowell's company, and shall therefore discharge it at an early day.

Will your excellency inform me whether I am any longer to expect the two companies of foot, or either of them, asked for in my requisition of the 11th of March last? With their aid, I flatter myself that it would be in my power to operate against the fugitive Creeks to the west of the Wakulla,

without disturbing my line of defence, so soon as the Indians to the east of that river are driven across the Suwanee. Indeed, I have a strong belief that they have crossed it already, but I have no positive assurance of it.

I am, sir, with high regard, your excellency's very obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. army, commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Middle Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 28, 1839.

SIR: I have received your letter of the present date, desiring to be informed whether there is a prospect of raising the two companies of footmen required in your letter of the 11th ultimo. I regret to say that volunteers, to serve on foot for twelve months, cannot be raised in this Territory. As many mounted companies as you may require can be obtained; but footmen can only be raised by draught; and the longest time for which they are liable to serve, under the laws of this Territory, is four months. If required, a draught will be ordered to organize such a force as you may deem necessary for the service.

With regard to Captain Rowell's company, I should regret exceedingly to see it disbanded, although I am satisfied that it is badly organized and badly located. The men comprising this company are generally good materials, and, under proper discipline, would make efficient soldiers: poor they are, and have made sacrifices to enter the service, believing they would be employed during the period of six months. It is now too late for them to plant, and, if disbanded, they will not only be without employment, but without the means of living. I think humanity requires that they should be retained, and, by changing their position, and placing them in detachments along the frontier, they might be made to perform valuable service. I have to request that they may not be disbanded until I shall have had a personal interview with you on the subject.

Yours, respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel DAVENPORT.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 20, 1839.

SIR: It is now more than two years since the fugitive Creek Indians, driven from the State of Alabama, invaded the western part of this Territory. With the exception of the annoyance they received from our local militia, called into service on my responsibility, in the summer and fall of 1837, they have been permitted to remain in the country which they occupied by force, almost without interruption, and have committed murders and robberies on the inhabitants with impunity. Since their first appearance in the country, I have repeatedly and most urgently invoked the proper authorities of the Government to employ an adequate force for their expulsion; but, as yet, nothing efficient has been done. You will recollect

how earnestly my solicitations were addressed to you on this subject, immediately after you assumed the command of this district, in March last. The imperative nature of the measure which I then recommended has been fully demonstrated by the recent depredations of this lawless band. A few days since, near the Apalachicola, four families were robbed, [their dwellings] burnt, and fourteen men, women, and children of the number were most inhumanly butchered. These horrid outrages will be continued so long as the Indians are permitted to occupy their present position. Defensive operations alone will not give protection to the inhabitants. The enemy will not only fatten on the spoil of our people, but they will multiply and increase, under the measures pursued by the Government. Nothing short of their expulsion or destruction will give security to the country. It is believed that the principal force of the fugitive Creeks is now between the Apalachicola and Ocklockney rivers, and that this has been their place of refuge during the last twelve months. The district of country embraced between these two rivers, and between the line of settlements and the seaboard, is not more than forty miles square. I propose that an active expedition be made in that district, and that constant pursuit be given to the Indians, until they shall have been driven beyond the reach of annoyance. If the regular troops and the militia now under your command are not sufficient to enable you to conduct this enterprise, I will, with the least possible delay, furnish such additional force as you may deem necessary. Should you be unwilling to accept of the troops I now offer you, and will furnish me with the necessary transportation and supplies, I will guaranty, even during the summer months, with the Territorial troops, the expulsion or destruction of every Indian west of the St. Mark's river. I regret, extremely, the necessity of drawing a military force from our sparse population at a season of the year when labor is so much required for cultivation; but I cannot bear the heart-rending cries of the women and children who are slaughtered on our borders, and I would make any sacrifice of men or money to give them protection. Could I have availed myself of the necessary resources, I should long since have made the expedition I now propose; but, without the means of procuring subsistence or transportation, I am under the necessity of requesting you to furnish the necessary supply, or to conduct an expedition against the fugitive Creeks, with the troops under your command.

Very respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Col. Wm. Davenport,
United States Army.

Headquarters, Fort Lawson, M. F.,
May 21, 1839.

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letter of yesterday's date. Nothing could afford me more pleasure than to relieve you from the presence of the fugitive Creeks, and secure the inhabitants from their depredations. The instructions which I brought with me for my government in the prosecution of my public duties here, which you saw, called my attention particularly to them, and you have since been constantly advised of every measure taken in reference to them. You remember that they had

signified a disposition to emigrate, provided they could be permitted to go by land; and that Lieutenant Colonel Green was sent to St. Andrew's bay, to see what it was necessary to do, to bring the matter to a close. From his reports to me, it seems they had abandoned that part of the country, and I was not satisfactorily informed where they had gone. The troops I brought with me, and, I believe I may add, those serving here before my arrival, were posted according to your wish, for the better protection of the frontier. At this time, as I was led to suppose, the Indians were in Patterson's hammock, which is surrounded by settlers, and I considered it my first duty to dislodge them. That I might do this with the greater certainty, I thought it best to employ in this service men better acquainted with these fastnesses than the regular soldiers pretended to be; with this object in view, I called on your excellency for four companies of Florida volunteers, to serve for twelve months, agreeably to a law of the Legislative Council, on the 11th of March, a few days after my arrival in Middle Florida, which you told me, in a previous interview, could be supplied without difficulty. This requisition has not been filled, yet I have received all the volunteers or militia you have offered me, viz: one company for twelve months, one for six months, and one of draughted militia for four months, many of whom are from Georgia. There was a great want of promptness in supplying them—much to be regretted, as the summer was so near at hand. Finding my requisition not likely to be filled, or, if filled, it would be so late I could make no use of them, I addressed a letter to you on the 28th ult., inquiring whether there was any prospect of getting the two companies of foot I had asked for on the 11th of March last, and saying to you that I had flattered myself, with their aid, I could operate against the fugitive Creeks to the west of the Wakulla, without too much weakening my line of defence. In your answer, of the same date, which you remind me is still unanswered, you say that "volunteers for twelve months, to serve on foot, cannot be raised in this Territory at this time; as many mounted men as you may require can be obtained." I did not expect you to offer me horsemen; and this, too, in reply to my letter, in which I informed you that I already had, in my opinion, as many mounted men as the service required in this quarter. You say that footmen can only be raised by draught, and for four months, agreeably to the law of the Territory; and, if required, a draught will be ordered for such a force as may be needed. My not promptly replying to this, you may attribute to any thing but the want of courtesy for you. In resorting to a draught, to fill Captain Byrd's company, two months since, with all the authority, activity, and zeal you have, it was found difficult to get the draughted men to serve; rather than obey the draught, many of them fled the country; and, finally, of the whole number draughted, very few of them are now in the company. The people thus showing so much reluctance to the service, I thought it would be very disagreeable to you to resort to a draught, except upon the strongest and most evident necessity; this I did not conceive to exist. I had not asked for four months' men, and the state of affairs at that time did not seem particularly to require that I should then ask for them. These I offer you as my reasons for not answering with promptness your note of the 28th ult.

In the afternoon of the 19th inst. I apprized you of what you had no doubt previously heard—that General Macomb had directed the suspension of active operations, the hostile Indians having signified a willingness to visit him at Fort King; and I also told you that our activity would not be relaxed along the frontier line of settlers. Being in possession of this infor-

mation, you will readily perceive the impropriety of calling for more troops, accepting them, or even actively operating with those I have. Should I remain in command in Middle Florida, when the proper time arrives I will employ (if I can get them) as many of your troops as the safety and interest of Florida requires. Indeed, at any time I may discover that more of them are needed than have been called for, I will forthwith apply to your excellency. It is not seen that any addition to the present force is needed now. Should you differ from me upon this point, and call out troops, I shall decline receiving, or furnishing them with supplies of any kind. Your letter of the 20th inst. shall be forwarded to the General, whose decision shall be forwarded to you when received.

I have the honor to be, your excellency's obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. Army, commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 25, 1839.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 21st instant, and regret to find it a labored effort to vindicate the propriety of your own conduct by casting unjust and unmerited reproaches on the people of this Territory. These are topics which I shall not discuss with you, but shall, at a proper time, lay your letter before the Secretary of War, with such comments as it may seem to me to merit. Having refused to order an expedition against the fugitive Creek Indians encamped within the limits of one of the most populous counties of this Territory, where you have been officially informed that they recently destroyed in one night thirteen women and children, and where you have been advised others are exposed to the same fate, I shall, under the laws of this Territory, proceed to organize a force for their expulsion. I cannot concur in the opinion you seem to entertain, that the fugitive Creek Indians, lurking on the seaboard of Middle and West Florida, at a distance of more than two hundred miles from any portion of the country claimed by the Seminoles, are intended by the Government to be included in the proposed truce with the Indians of Florida located on the peninsula. I shall, therefore, use my best efforts to dislodge them from their present position.

Presuming that you may not be apprized of the authority I possess from the Secretary of War to raise troops in case of emergency, I enclose you herewith a copy of his letter to me, and to General Taylor, on that subject. Under this authority, I ask of you the necessary supplies for three hundred men, to be engaged in active operations against the Creek Indians.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel DAVENPORT, *U. S. Army.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ROGER JONES, M. F.,
May 30, 1839.

SIR: Your excellency's letter of the 25th instant, in answer to mine of the 21st, I have the honor to acknowledge. I will "labor to vindicate my

own conduct" whenever I find it necessary; but you are entirely mistaken if you suppose I have for a moment thought that time had arrived; when it does, I have no idea whatever that I shall have to vindicate myself to you. If I had made any misstatements, I would have supposed that you would have pointed them out. This you have not undertaken, but charge me with "casting unjust and unmerited reproaches on the people of the Territory." You further add, "these are topics which I shall not discuss with you, but shall at a proper time lay your letter before the Secretary of War, with such comments as it may seem to me to merit." If you will not discuss them, why do you allude to them in your letter? You can use my letter as you think best; the truth therein recorded will always remain unchanged. The letter will no doubt reach the Secretary of War, as a matter of course; but you have my full consent to send it when you please, and append to it any "comments" which, in your opinion, it may "merit." If I have been so indiscreet as to cast "unjust and unmerited reproach upon the people of this Territory," I do assure you it was altogether unintentional on my part; and I regret you have contented yourself with roundly asserting it, instead of pointing out the case you refer to. You know very well that any thing, whether labored or not, you find in my letter, is strictly true; and, indeed, I do not see that you have contradicted or denied any part of it. Under such circumstances, I am really curious to know what you intend to append to my letter for the information of the Secretary of War. What I have stated he will admit; and it is not in your power to disprove any part of it. Your comments upon my letter no doubt I shall see in due time, and I shall then reply to them if they merit my attention.

The measure I have taken for the better protection of the frontier inhabitants of Gadsden county will not be changed at present. The whole affair has been stated to the General, and, if he can discover what more the crisis calls for, he can direct accordingly. I am not behind your excellency in regrets at the recent murders of so many women and children on the Apalachicola. In your letter of the 20th you say fourteen were killed; in that to which this is an answer you say thirteen. The information upon which I place most reliance states the whole number killed at seven. These unfortunate families lived at a very exposed point—perhaps twenty or more miles from anybody else; and I hear that some of them were supposed to be in the practice of supplying the Indians. Was not Smith the man you wished me to send a command after, to examine his house and bring him to Tallahassee for trial? The letter of the Secretary of War, of the 28th February last, does not apply to the subject of discussion, at the present crisis at least. Two hundred of the men he then had in view you know were called for and could not be obtained. I have duly considered my reply to your former letter, and I need only say here, that I shall adhere to it, and decline furnishing any troops you may think proper to call out with supplies of any kind. When you send my first letter to the Secretary of War, please also send this.

The general order of the 18th instant, declaring the war at an end, will be handed you by Captain Heintzelman.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. army, comman ding

To His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, M. F.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT LAWSON, M. F.,
July 14, 1839.

SIR: Your excellency's letter of this morning has been received; and it grieves me to find by it that the Indians are again in the heart of the settlement, and as hostile as ever. I will do what I can for the protection of the inhabitants, and should be most happy were I able to meet their wants and wishes. No exertion shall be spared to accomplish it. As their best security, however, I would have the people exposed always on the watch.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your excellency's obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. army, commanding.

To His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, M. F.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 16, 1839.

SIR: I have just been informed that within the last few days fresh Indian sign has been discovered on the west side of the Ocklockney river, near Hawey's mills. If convenient, I have to request a scout may be sent to examine in that part of the country. A competent guide will be found at the mills.

Yours, respectfully,

R. K. CALL.

Col. WM. DAVENPORT,
United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS, WEST OF THE SUWANEE,
Fort Lawson, July 17, 1839.

SIR: Your excellency's letter of yesterday is just received, and I have the honor to state, in reply, that I have thought it probable the Indians had abandoned the country to the west of the Wakulla. It is important that the truth upon this point should be known, and I will endeavor to ascertain it. This, however, is as much as I can do at this time.

Bradley's company being of no use at present on the Suwanee, I have directed it to be stationed on the Magnolia road, as decidedly the best position to protect the inhabitants west of the St. Mark's river.

I am, sir, your excellency's obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. army, commanding.

To His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, M. F.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 17, 1839.

SIR: The destruction of the family of Mr. Chaires by the Indians, on the night of the 13th instant, within eight miles of this place, has confirmed me in the belief I have ever entertained, that the truce with the Seminoles

would result in the renewal of the war with all its horrors. This fatal outrage, committed in the heart of one of the most populous counties of the Territory, has occasioned much excitement among the planters, who entertain just apprehension of danger to their families and their estates. To restore tranquillity and insure protection, I have ordered one hundred mounted men to be raised in this county, as a guard for the frontier. These troops are expected to assemble at this place on Saturday, the 20th instant; at which time I have to request that they may be furnished from the stores of the Government with the necessary articles of supplies, to enable them to perform the services so essential to the security of the county. Until a more permanent force could be organized, I ordered a small company of mounted volunteers to take post at or near Captain Byrd's, on the Magnolia road, where they are now stationed, and from whence they furnish guards to the houses most exposed, every night. I have further to request that they may be supplied with subsistence and forage for a few days, when they will be relieved by the troops now preparing for service.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Colonel WILLIAM DAVENPORT,
United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS, WEST OF THE SUWANEE,
Fort Lawson, July 18, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge your excellency's letter of the 17th instant, asking for supplies for your troops, and to inform you that my reply is the same I have heretofore given you upon the same subject; and it will remain unchanged while I command the troops operating in Middle Florida. Should this decision meet the disapprobation of the General or the Government, it is in the power of either to have me superseded in the command. My reason for this determination, to which I shall adhere, arises principally from the belief that embarrassments will ensue, hurtful, if not destructive, to the public good, if the same staff should be subject to two different and distinct authorities at the same time. Neither of us could form any plan with the necessary confidence depending upon their agency.

The period of the expiration of the truce having arrived, and we having evidence that the Indians are still in Middle Florida, I will receive into the service of the United States the one hundred men you are now raising in Tallahassee. Should you accede to this proposition, I will appoint an officer to muster them into the service at any time your excellency may designate.

Ten days' supply of provisions were sent to Byrd's plantation for thirty-five men a few days since. Nothing more will be sent.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your excellency's obedient servant,

WM. DAVENPORT,
Colonel U. S. Army, commanding.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Middle Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 22, 1839.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 18th instant. Your very positive and peremptory refusal to furnish, from the abundant stores of the Government, the supplies I have requested for troops I have ordered to be raised for the defence of the frontier, renders all further discussion on the subject unnecessary. I cannot, however, assent to the propriety of the reason you have assigned for that refusal. I asked you for supplies to enable me to defend the frontier settlements recently assailed, and still exposed to the ravages of the enemy. I did not request you to place my staff subject to my orders, for I have no desire to exercise the least control over any one of its members; nor could your order, (if given,) directing them to supply my troops while engaged in the defence of the country, by any just inference subject them to my authority.

I shall decline having these troops mustered into the service of the United States until I am well assured that they will be promptly and efficiently employed in expelling the Indians from Middle Florida, where they have been permitted to remain with their families during the present season, building houses and cultivating crops, while they have covered the frontier with blood and carnage.

I shall nevertheless endeavor to comply with any requisition you may make on me for a militia force, in conformity with the orders of the President of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Col. WM. DAVENPORT,
United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, August 21, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant,* on the subject of that part of my annual report made to the Secretary of War last year, which gives an account of the operations of the army in Florida against the Seminoles, especially in reference to the affair of the Withlacoochie; in which report, you think that injustice has been done to the Florida volunteers then under your command.

The report to which you allude was based on the official information which had been received by me; and had I been furnished with so detailed a statement of the affair of the 31st December, 1835, with the explanations, as that which you now present in the communication above referred to, it would have afforded me the greatest satisfaction to have reiterated the praise you bestow on the Florida volunteers who followed you on that occasion to the banks of the Withlacoochie. It was far from any intention on my part to do injustice to the patriotic volunteers who so promptly rallied under your standard on the signal of danger; but, as before observed. I had no means of stating why they did not cross the river at the moment of attack on the regulars, who were in position on its opposite bank. I will cause your communication to be put on file in the Adjutant General's office, and besides, with this letter, give it publicity through the public prints, that the

* For letter of Governor Call to Major General Macomb, of August 3, 1837, see pages 125 to 128.

world may, by means of your statement, be made more fully acquainted with the part the Florida volunteers took in the battle of the Withlacoochie.

With respectful considerations, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,
Major General, commanding in chief.

To His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Fort Heileman, Garey's Ferry, Fa., April 13, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to inform your excellency that, by order of the War Department, I have come to Florida with a view to examine into the state of the military concerns in the Territory, and to bring, if possible, the war to a close; and, especially, to afford protection to the inhabitants who are most exposed to the incursions of the Indians. It was, at first, my intention to have crossed the country to Tallahassee, for the purpose of consulting with your excellency, and other distinguished and intelligent individuals in your neighborhood, as to the means most proper to be pursued; but, meeting with General Taylor at this place on my arrival, and finding that he was making his arrangements for covering the exposed settlements between this and Tallahassee, I determined to visit the posts on the St. John's, but, before setting out, ordered runners to be sent to the Indians, with an invitation to meet me at Fort King on the first day of May next, if they were inclined to come in; hoping that, by an interview with them, a communication might be opened with the principal chiefs, and a suspension of hostilities brought about, on condition of their retiring below Pease creek until they could have time to consider their real situation, and see the advantages which would result to them by conforming to the stipulations of the treaty of Payne's Landing, under a liberal construction of that instrument. I am happy to find so patriotic a spirit among the citizens of this frontier as is evinced in this quarter. One company of militia, to be discharged on the 18th instant, having completed its engagement, has already intimated its wish to continue in service, and it will be received accordingly. Two other companies, from the borders of Georgia and this Territory, have made a tender of their services; but, wishing to see Colonel Warren, who has had much experience in raising and commanding the militia which has heretofore turned out in defence of this Territory, I have deferred doing any thing until he calls at headquarters, expecting to see him every moment. I am in hopes of being able to raise a corps of militia sufficiently extensive to cover all the exposed settlements.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c.,

ALEXANDER MACOMB,
Major General, commanding in chief.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have seen Colonel Warren, who has undertaken to raise seven companies. There is every prospect of getting all the militia required, in the course of fifteen days.

MARIANNA, *May* 7, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, informing me of the object of your mission to Florida. I should be very happy to have a personal interview with you, in order to confer with you on the measures to be adopted for the future defence of this Territory. I shall return to Tallahassee in a few days, and will endeavor to meet you at such time and place as you may designate.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major General MACOMB.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Fort King, Fa., May 23, 1839.

SIR: Having met the Seminole Indians in council at this place, agreeably to invitation, and concluded a peace with them, I thought it proper to issue a general order announcing the fact, a copy of which I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for your satisfaction and information; and hope the arrangement may meet with your excellency's approbation. As the Indians are at present dispersed in small parties, it may be some time before they shall all be made acquainted with the arrangement entered into; but there is no doubt that, ere long, all will have retired from the settlements to the district assigned to them below Pease creek.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

ALEX. MACOMB,
Major General, commanding in chief.

To His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, May 6, 1836.

GENERAL: Your letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, of the 18th ultimo, was yesterday referred, through the War Department, to this office; and I have to-day required for you a remittance of $3,000, to enable you to replace the sum which you advanced on account of the military service in Florida.

Your letter of the 22d ultimo, to the Secretary of War, has been referred to me. The moment I can spare an officer for the service, measures will be adopted to adjust all the claims against the public in Florida, growing out of the operations against the Seminole Indians, as far as the laws permit. Should Colonel Gadsden return in time from the army, I propose charging him with the settlement of a portion, if not the whole, of those claims, provided he consent to act.

I am, General, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

His Excellency RICHARD K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, May 17, 1836.

GENERAL: Your letter to the Secretary of War, of the 28th ultimo, has been referred to this office.

Captain Shannon has been directed to collect and pay, as far as existing laws will permit, all claims against this department in Florida, arising out of the operations against the Seminole Indians. I enclose a copy of the instructions this day sent to him; and am, General,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

[Copy referred to in the preceding letter.]

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, May 17, 1836.

SIR: You will take immediate measures to collect all claims against the department, connected with the recent operations in Florida, for services, means of transportation, or supplies rendered or furnished by citizens of the Territory. Such as can be paid under existing laws, must be paid with as little delay as possible. The classes of claims which can be legally paid, are, those for subsistence, means of transportation, hire or charter of vessels, compensation to expresses, expense of carrying letters, blankets, clothing, medicines, hospital stores, tools, knapsacks, drums, arms, ammunition, flints, stationery, fuel, drayage, wharfage, clerk-hire, compensation to conductors of stores, storage of public property, and for all other articles, means, or services, usually provided or paid for through this department. In your payments you will require the proper evidence to sustain each claim, without insisting on the strict observance of form; and you will furnish the paymasters appointed to pay the troops with lists of all articles for which the militia and volunteers should be held individually accountable, in order that the proper charges be made against them.

You will confer with Governor Call on the subject of your duties, who will, I am sure, afford you every assistance in his power.

You are authorized to employ such clerks or other agents as you may find necessary to the prompt discharge of your duties.

Should any claims be submitted which you may consider either as not sufficiently vouched, or of doubtful propriety, you will, after collecting all the evidence within your command applicable to the respective cases, submit them for decision to this office.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

Captain SAMUEL SHANNON,
Assistant Quartermaster, Pensacola, Fa.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, June 7, 1836.

SIR: Your letter of the 24th ultimo has been received; and, in reply, I have to inform you that instructions were given to Captain Samuel Shannon, assistant quartermaster, under date of the 17th ultimo, in regard to the claims of the citizens of Florida; a copy of which was sent to you on the same day. On the 25th ultimo Captain Shannon was ordered to report to you; and I enclose to you, herewith, a copy of the instructions to him of that date. Other instructions will be despatched to Captain Shannon—perhaps to day—in reference to the supplies, &c., authorized to be paid for under the act approved May 28, 1836.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

THO. F. HUNT,
Major and Assistant Quartermaster,
(Assigned to Quartermaster General's duties.)

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

[Copy referred to in the preceding letter.]

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, May 25, 1836.

SIR: Governor Call, of Florida, will probably call into service, and have command of, a considerable body of troops for the protection of the settlements in Florida, &c., and for operations against the Seminole and other Indians. You will, therefore, immediately report to him in person; and you will make the expenditures connected with the Governor's operations, and do all other duties that may be required of you. You will not only procure such supplies, the furnishing of which properly appertains to the quartermaster's department, but you will furnish subsistence and other supplies.

You are authorized to employ every kind of assistance which may be necessary in the performance of your duties—such as clerks, laborers, conductors of stores, storekeepers, &c., &c. Keep this office constantly informed of your operations and proceedings; and let your wants, in regard to funds, be known in time for remittances.

There will, in all probability, be sundry steamboats armed, plying on the Chattahoochie and the Apalachicola; and you will, therefore, correspond with Major General Jesup, who has been assigned to command the army to operate against the Creek Indians. The General directed me to order you to old Fort Gaines, where, or near there, a depot will be established, large supplies having been ordered from New Orleans to that place; but the Secretary of War has directed otherwise.

I write in triplicate; one of which is addressed to Fort Drane, one to Tallahassee, and one to Pensacola.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

THO. F. HUNT,
Major, and acting Quartermaster General.

Captain SAMUEL SHANNON,
Assistant Quartermaster, Fort Drane, Florida.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, June 13, 1836.

SIR: Your letter of the 12th ultimo, addressed to the Secretary of War, in reference to fraudulent claims on the public, has been referred to this office. The information will be attended to, should any claims be presented here for liquidation. A copy of the letter is sent to Captain Shannon, at Tallahassee.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THO. F. HUNT,
Major and Assistant Quartermaster,
(assigned to Quartermaster General's duties.)

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, June 23, 1836.

SIR: On examining the accounts of Colonel James Gadsden, quartermaster general of Florida, for expenditures connected with the operations against the Seminole Indians, it is perceived that he turned over several sums of money to officers of the Territory of Florida, for which such officers have, thus far, rendered no accounts showing the manner in which the funds have been applied, viz:

Willis Alston, assistant quartermaster, February 8, $600; February 25, $1,000: making $1,600.

John G. Putnam, assistant quartermaster, February 28, $1,000.

Colonel Gadsden states in the memorandum of these advances, thus: "Advances made Assistant Quartermasters Willis Alston and J. G. Putnam, by order of Governor Eaton."

The Colonel also turned over to E. J. Wood, assistant quartermaster, on the 25th of February, $166 58, no accounts for which have been rendered. Governor Eaton ordered, in these words: "You will advance to Assistant Quartermaster Wood the sum which may be necessary to liquidate some outstanding accounts against the Government at Apalachicola." And, in a note on the voucher, Colonel Gadsden states: "The above was the amount reported to me as necessary by Quartermaster Wood."

Colonel Gadsden turned over, on the 3d of February, to George S. Hawkins $200; the order for which, by Governor Eaton, is as follows: "Colonel Hawkins, one of my staff, is ordered into Georgia to see General Scott, and to receive any orders he may desire to give, and to explain what is doing here. You will advance to him, on his receipt, what may be necessary to defray his expenses." The receipt is for the two hundred dollars, for the accomplishment of said object. The manner in which the money was expended should be shown by Colonel Hawkins.

The object in giving you this information is, that the officers who have received the public funds may be required by you to render their accounts to this office for examination and transmission to the Treasury for settlement.

Captain Shannon, assistant quartermaster of the army, is no doubt at Tallahassee, and, if the officers will consult him, he can advise them of the man-

ner in which the accounts should be rendered, in order to prevent delay in their settlement.

It is observed that, in the account of J. N. C. Stockton, for charter of steamer Eclipse, there is an entry in these words: "Deduct twenty days' service of above boat, for which Mr. Stockton contends under his construction of the charter, and which must be submitted to the Secretary of War." As there is nothing with the Colonel's accounts to show the grounds upon which Mr. Stockton rests his construction, or for the claim which may hereafter be made for the amount deducted, permit me to request, if you have any information on the subject, or can obtain it, that you will cause it to be transmitted to this office, to be laid before the Secretary of War, should any claim be hereafter presented to him.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS F. HUNT,
Major and Assistant Quartermaster,
(assigned to Quartermaster General's duties.)

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, October 6, 1836.

SIR: The receipt to you of H. D. Baldwin, quartermaster general of Florida, for $9,183, has this day been transmitted to the Third Auditor of the Treasury, to be passed to your credit.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. CROSS,
Major, acting Quartermaster General.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 3, 1838.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 11th ultimo, in relation to the adjustment of outstanding claims of the citizens of West Florida for supplies furnished to the militia and volunteers employed there during the last summer and fall, under your direction.

You are doubtless aware that militia and volunteers in the service of the United States are entitled to the same pay and allowances as are provided by law for the regular troops, and that it is not competent for the Executive to make any distinction. It required a special act of Congress (that of the 28th of May, 1836) to provide for the claims of an extraordinary character, which had been contracted at the commencement of hostilities in Florida; but that act only applied to cases which occurred anterior to its date.

In adjusting the claims growing out of your late operations, the disbursing officers must, therefore, be governed by the existing laws and regulations, as to the objects of allowance; but a nice adherence to mere

form will not be insisted upon, where the claims are substantially unobjectionable.

The expenses of the Florida war have been so enormous as to baffle all our estimates; and, consequently, the various appropriations made for that object, though deemed very liberal at the time, have all been exhausted. An additional appropriation, however, is now before Congress; and so soon as it shall have been granted, Lieutenant Vinton will be supplied with funds to enable him to pay such claims as he may deem admissible, with instructions to collect and forward all others to this office, for the action of the accounting officers of the Treasury.

It is proper to add, that, although I have frequently admonished Lieutenant Vinton, for his own security, as well as the public interest, to observe much caution in his payments, I am not aware that his instructions, in regard to claims contracted by quartermasters of the militia, are so general, as would appear from the extract of his letter to you.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

T. CROSS,
Acting Quartermaster General.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 24, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 5th instant, on the subject of paying the claims of our citizens against the Quartermaster's Department, for supplies furnished the Government in the late expeditions against the Seminole Indians.

Colonel Gadsden has just tendered his resignation as quartermaster general of the Territory. He will be succeeded by Colonel Henry D. Baldwin, who is in every respect well qualified to discharge the duties of a disbursing officer.

If funds are forwarded to him for the purpose, you may have every reliance on his prompt and faithful discharge of duty. I have to request, sir, this may be done as early as practicable, unless you send me an officer of your department on this subject.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General THOMAS S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General United States Army.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 9, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 23d ultimo, relative to the accounts of the disbursing officers appointed by my predecessor in this Territory.

Willis Alston and John G. Putnam are both absent, and I do not know where letters would find them. They are, however, expected to return in the fall. Hawkins resides at Marianna, and Wood at St. Joseph, both in this Territory. None of these gentlemen have been continued in office under my administration: their appointments have been vacated, and I have

no official control over them. One of them, Willis Alston, under the administration of Governor Eaton, sold a large amount of public property, for which, I believe, no account whatever has been rendered. The books of the auctioneer will show the sum he received. As the suit, should one be necessary, (which I think not improbable,) would have to be brought in the name of the United States, I would suggest the propriety of your calling on him direct for a settlement of his accounts. He was superseded immediately on my coming into office, and I have had no transaction with him. Putnam, Hawkins, and Wood, I have no doubt, will account satisfactorily for whatever they may have received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major THOMAS F. HUNT,
Acting Quartermaster General.

TALLAHASSEE, *December* 11, 1837.

SIR: I enclose you, herewith, an extract from a letter addressed to me by Lieutenant Vinton, of the Quartermaster's Department, from which you will perceive the difficulties which exist in settling many of the accounts which have accrued in Florida in purchasing supplies for the use of the troops ordered into service. The situation of the country, and the nature of the war which has been carried on in it, have rendered it impossible, in all cases, to purchase supplies in conformity with the regulations of the army. Since February last, small bands of the Creek Indians have been lurking through the swamps of West Florida, causing danger and apprehension to the inhabitants of their neighborhood. To give them protection, it has been frequently necessary to assemble troops in a hurried manner, and to subsist them on the resources of the country, wherever supplies could be found. In this manner, accounts have been made out in the most irregular manner by persons entirely ignorant of the forms required by the Government. I cannot believe it is the intention of the Government to reject these claims because of the want of formality, when evidence can be produced to sustain their merit. It would be equally unjust to say they should not be paid, because the accounts were not contracted by an officer of the United States army. With the exception of Lieutenant Vinton, there has scarcely been an officer of that service on duty between the Suwanee and the Perdido, a distance of more than three hundred miles; and in almost every neighborhood of the intervening country it has been indispensably necessary, at some period of the war, to procure of the inhabitants either provision, forage, or transportation. I have to request, sir, that such instructions may be given to Lieutenant Vinton, the assistant quartermaster at this place, as will enable him to pay off all meritorious claims of the above description.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major T. CROSS, *Acting Quartermaster General.*

Extract of D. H. Vinton's letter, referred to in the preceding.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
Tallahassee, December 8, 1837.

SIR: Scarcely a day passes that there are not many claims presented to me for payment, which were contracted by the quartermasters of the Florida militia in the field, by order of their commanding officers. These claims consist principally of charges for forage, subsistence, and transportation, or hire of wagons.

By instructions from the Quartermaster's Department at Washington, I am precluded from recognising any claim not contracted in conformity with the regulations of the army; and although, in many cases, the exigency of the service has prompted to a course at variance with these instructions, I am not permitted to acknowledge the validity of the act of the officers so contracting.

TALLAHASSEE, *April* 6, 1838.

MY DEAR SIR: Lieutenant Vinton has informed me that the department has expressed some dissatisfaction at his delay in rendering an account of disbursements in the quartermaster's department. As an act of justice to him, I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject, assured, as I am, that you can form but a very imperfect idea of the various and difficult duties he has been required to perform. For more than twelve months it has been necessary to employ troops at different points throughout Middle and West Florida, to protect the settlements against the ravages of the Creek and Seminole Indians. It has been necessary to purchase supplies, furnish transportation, and establish depots, in a district of country more than 300 miles in extent. In the performance of these several duties, Lieutenant Vinton has been constantly employed, and has had no officer in the quartermaster's department under him to divide the labor and responsibility. In addition to this, he has been compelled to provide for the troops of Georgia and Alabama passing through his district, on their way to, and returning from, the Seminole country. I have found him, on all occasions, one of the most efficient officers I have ever known; and I have no doubt the department will approve entirely of his proceedings, when correctly informed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Major T. CROSS,
Acting Quartermaster General.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, May 26, 1836.

SIR: I have this day directed Lieutenant Morrison, assistant commissary of subsistence at New Orleans, to purchase and ship, as early as practicable, to St. Mark's, from fifty to seventy-five thousand complete rations, to be issued as may be required, for the troops, or the suffering inhabitants of Florida.

As I have no assistant commissary of subsistence there, I must request you to appoint one from your command, to receive and issue them. A set of forms is herewith sent. In all issues, direct the commissary to make separate abstracts—one for the troops, and one for the sufferers. You will please, in future, make timely requisitions on Lieutenant Morrison for provisions, and he will comply with them.

Respectfully, &c., &c.,
GEORGE GIBSON,
Commissary General of Subsistence.

General R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Middle Florida.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, June 20, 1836.

GOVERNOR: Enclosed, for your information, is the copy of a letter this day addressed to General Macomb.

Very respectfully, &c., &c.,
GEORGE GIBSON,
Commissary General of Subsistence.

Governor R. K. CALL,
Tallahassee, Middle Florida.

[Enclosed in the preceding.]

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, June 20, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose the application of Lieutenant J. D. Searight, assistant commissary of subsistence, for four months' leave of absence. Lieutenant Searight was a volunteer for duty in the subsistence department in Florida. From the impaired state of his health, his services there can no longer be available.

I respectfully request that the asked-for leave of absence may be granted him.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
GEORGE GIBSON,
Commissary General of Subsistence.

Major General A. MACOMB,
Commanding United States Army.

OFFICE COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, September 22, 1836.

SIR: I deem it proper to inform you that a depot of provisions has been established at Savannah, Georgia, under the superintendence of Lieutenant and A. C. S. Charles O. Collins. It is intended from this depot to supply all the posts in Florida, with the exception of Tampa Bay, Suwanee, and St. Mark's. These last named posts will be supplied from New Orleans, of which you were informed as early as the 26th May last, with a request that you would be pleased to make requisitions on the assistant commissary of

subsistence at that place for such subsistence stores as you might think necessary.

Within a few days past, instructions have been given for purchasing, in New York and Baltimore, 300,000 rations of the larger articles, (a large portion of bacon and hard bread,) and 250,000 rations of the smaller articles, to be forwarded to Savannah. This quantity, with what is supposed to be on hand at Savannah, will amount to something like 350,000 rations at that depot. It is presumed that but little delay will take place in forwarding these stores from New York and Baltimore.

I respectfully request that such instructions as you deem necessary may be given on the subject of these stores, both to Lieutenant Collins, and the several assistant commissaries in Florida, whose posts are dependent on Savannah for supplies.

Respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE GIBSON, *C. G. S.*

Governor R. K. Call,
Commanding forces in Florida, Tallahassee, M. F.

Office Commissary General of Subsistence,
Washington, October 14, 1836.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose, for your information, the copy of a letter just received from Lieutenant G. W. McLean, of the marine corps, at Columbus, Georgia.

No instructions will be given from this office; and the assistant commissary of subsistence has been told to await your orders as to the proper disposition of those stores, or rather that portion which is not required for the troops, to the families of the friendly Indians in Alabama.

Respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE GIBSON, *C. G. S.*

Governor R. K. Call,
Commanding forces in Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

Office Commissary General of Subsistence,
Washington, December 14, 1837.

Governor: Some months since, a large quantity of subsistence stores were forwarded from New Orleans, by my agent there, to Mr. Ambrose Crane, at St. Mark's, Florida, for the purpose of issuing to the suffering inhabitants. Up to this period Mr. Crane has rendered no account of them to this office, nor has he corresponded with me in relation thereto. I am under the impression that Mr. Crane was either placed there by you, or at your suggestion; and, if so, may I ask the favor of you to urge upon him the great necessity that exists of his promptly rendering an account of all issues made by him up to this time; and also to continue to do so as long as he remains at St. Mark's as United States agent?

Respectfully, &c.,

GEORGE GIBSON, *C. G. S.*

Governor R. K. Call,
Tallahassee, Florida.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, *March* 30, 1836.

SIR: I am directed by the Secretary of War to furnish you a copy of the instructions for mustering and paying volunteers and militia when called into service.

The duty of mustering and inspecting should always be performed by an officer of the United States army, when it can be done. You will find the information in the enclosed papers, viz: A copy of the late act of Congress, providing for the payment of volunteers and militia. A table of the pay, &c. of the United States army, and two blank forms—one of a muster-roll, and the other of a pay or receipt-roll, to be used in mustering and paying these corps. A third blank is the individual account, on which commissioned officers are to be paid.

The *muster-roll* being, in all cases, both of officers and men, the *evidence of service*, great pains should be taken by the mustering officer to have every circumstance which can affect the pay of individuals noted opposite to their names. The headings of the several columns show what is required to be stated in each. If there are any deductions to be made for clothing, or other articles furnished, or for public property lost or destroyed, it should be noted in the column of "remarks," and the value stated in dollars and cents opposite the names of the persons from whom the deductions are to be made.

Clothing, or money in lieu thereof, being allowed by the 1st section of the act, the following tariff of prices will govern in cases of that nature where no clothing has been drawn in kind:

To a sergeant-major and a quartermaster-sergeant $3 02 per month, or 9 cents per day.

To a chief musician $3 08 per month, or 10 cents per day.

To a sergeant $2 77 per month, or 9 cents per day.

To a corporal $2 60 per month, or 8 cents per day.

To a musician $2 61 per month, or 8 cents per day.

To a private $2 57 per month, or 8 cents per day.

You will observe by the 6th section, that none but troops ordered into service "under authority from the War Department," are provided for by this act. But if an individual State should assume the payment of her own militia called out without such authority, and should afterwards be reimbursed by the United States the amount thus paid, the reimbursement will have to be made according to the provisions of this act, unless otherwise specially provided for by Congress.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON, *P. M. G.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, *Tallahassee.*

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, *May* 18, 1836.

SIR: The Secretary of War has referred to me your letter of the 28th ult., with directions to give the necessary instructions for payment of the militia who have been serving in Florida, and to inform you of the same.

As early as the 2d of February last, two paymasters (Majors Lytle and Muhlenberg) were ordered into Florida, with funds and instructions to pay such militia as should be properly mustered and designated for payment by General Scott, to whom I also wrote on the same day.

On the 2d of April a third paymaster (Major Kirby) was ordered there, with funds and instructions to assist the other two; these were all the officers that could be assigned to that duty.

I represented the case to Congress, and asked for such additional paymasters as were necessary, but have not yet been able to obtain them. The paymasters ordered to Florida will, I am certain, make every exertion to perform their duties with the least possible delay. You are doubtless aware that a paymaster can make no payments without muster-rolls, and that these cannot be made until the service has been rendered.

Now, if the militia referred to in your letter had, when their term of service expired, been properly mustered, and the rolls placed in the hands of the paymaster, they could have been paid on quitting the field; but the paymasters must now follow them to their respective homes to perform that duty. They will proceed to do so as fast as practicable, and in all probability yours will be paid by Major Kirby. I shall write to him immediately; but, as he is constantly changing his position, I do not know with certainty where a letter will find him, and have therefore taken the liberty of enclosing a copy to you, and will esteem it a particular favor if you will have it forwarded to him, if you know where he is.

As a matter of information that was thought might be useful, I did myself the honor of addressing you, under date of the 30th March last, enclosing a copy of the instructions for mustering and paying volunteers and militia when called into the service of the United States. If these have been attended to, there will be no difficulty in paying them, provided they have been properly ordered into service. See 6th section of the act sent to you.

I am, &c.

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida.

Paymaster General's Office, *June* 13, 1836.

Sir: I have received your letter of the 30th ult. There is evidently a misunderstanding between us in relation to the militia of your Territory. In my letter to you of the 18th ult., commenting on that part of yours to the Secretary of War which speaks of the delay in paying your troops, I supposed you had reference to such as had been called out on application from the War Department, and could, therefore, have been paid if they had been properly mustered, and the paymasters in Florida informed of their places of discharge. Not being able to obtain any information on the subject, for want of returns and reports to the Adjutant General, I did suppose there might be some of this description; but, from your letter now before me, I find you referred, principally, to those who served previous to any call being made from the War Department. No provision could have been made for the payment of *those*, until after the passage of the enclosed act on the 28th ultimo.

As soon as it was ascertained that such an act would pass, (to wit, on the 23d ultimo,) I gave Major Kirby additional and more positive instructions to repair to Tallahassee, and directed to him at three different places; but I regret to learn, by a letter from him, that he had not received either of them

on the 4th of this month, and that he was then employed on other duties by order of General Scott, which I fear may interfere with my instructions when he does receive them. Under this impression, I have ordered the paymaster at New Orleans to repair to Tallahassee by the first opportunity after he receives my letter. Enclosed I send you an extract from my letter to him. I have instructed Paymaster Smith, who is stationed at Charleston, to pay General Hernandez's command, and all other volunteers and militia of your Territory in that section. If Kirby should be with you when Mapes arrives, I wish him to be relieved immediately, as his services will be wanted in Alabama.

I send a copy of my letter of the 30th of March, which you state has not been received.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster Gener*

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

[Enclosed in the preceding.]

Paymaster General's Office,
May 23, 1836.

Sir: Since my letter to you of the 18th instant, I have received the enclosed order from the War Department. These instructions embrace the militia who served with Governor Call under General Clinch, as well as those whose services were called for by General Scott, or subsequently ordered out by the Governor.

I must rely on you to perform this duty, and, to enable you to do so, you are authorized to draw on me for any additional funds it may require. I wish you to see Governor Call as soon as you can do so with safety, and write to him immediately on receipt of this.

I received your letter of the 12th instant, from St. Augustine, and regret to learn from it that the Louisiana and Alabama militia had returned from Tampa Bay without being paid. As Paymaster Lytle accompanied General Scott to that place, I did expect they would have been paid by him. I ordered Paymaster Mapes back to Orleans, and sent him funds for the Louisiana volunteers, in case they should return without pay; but did not believe there was any necessity to provide for the Alabama troops from that quarter. I have, since the receipt of your letter, sent him funds, with instructions to pay them. You will, therefore, confine your operations principally to the Florida troops until they are paid, unless it should be convenient to pay those of Alabama before Paymaster Mapes arrives.

I have just ordered Major Randall to the south, to make arrangements for the Creek war. He will probably join General Jesup; but this will depend on the information I may have when he gets to Washington.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

Edmund Kirby,
Paymaster, St. Augustine.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
September 3, 1836.

SIR: I received a copy of your letter of the 7th ultimo, in answer to one from Major Smith, relating to the payment of certain officers of your Territory.

You conclude by saying, that "a copy of this communication is sent to the Paymaster General, requesting him to lay it before the Secretary of War." As Paymaster Smith did not inform me that he had written to you, I do not sufficiently understand the point to be decided by the Secretary of War, to give him the necessary explanation. I infer, from your answer, that the question is, What officers are to be paid, according to the organization required by the law; and which are to be considered supernumeraries? and that it is your opinion that those you named are entitled to a preference, on account of the services they performed.

If I am correct, the Secretary considers that the Governor of the Territory, and the officer in command of the troops, are the proper persons to make the decision.

I understand there is one regiment of those troops in the neighborhood of Newnansville, yet to be paid. I did expect that this duty would have been performed by Paymaster Smith; but he informed me, before he left St. Augustine, that it was impossible to get to that place without a strong escort, and that Lieutenant Colonel Crane did not think the object sufficiently important to justify him in sending such an escort at this sickly season. I am informed by officers who have returned from Florida, that Newnansville can be approached as easily, or more so, from Tallahassee; and, as it is uncertain when I can send a paymaster by the way of St. Augustine, I wish you to furnish Paymaster Mapes a sufficient escort to protect him, and send him on that duty, if you shall think it of sufficient importance. There are some regular troops at that place that are much in want of pay.

I am gratified at the complimentary terms in which you notice the official conduct of the two officers of this department, who have been with you. I know it will give Paymaster Mapes pleasure to render you every service in his power, in any way you desire to employ him; to which I have not the slightest objection, provided it does not interfere with his appropriate duty, which I am sure you will not permit it to do.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, *Tallahassee.*

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
May 23, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, in which you request that a paymaster may be sent to pay certain companies of Florida militia, which you inform me have not yet been paid.

The following is an extract from the instructions given by the senior officer of the department in Florida, Paymaster T. P. Andrews, to Paymaster Forsyth: "After all the volunteers are paid off, and the troops paid to the 30th April as above, and not before, Major Forsyth will proceed to Talla-

hassee, and pay off the two companies of militia, the rolls of which I have already made out and leave with you; also, the detachment of Apalachicola Indians. He will also pay any proper claims on the department in that region, now due; after which, he can proceed home." The instructions were dated at Tampa Bay on the 20th ultimo, and, if nothing has occurred to prevent, will, I presume, have been complied with by the time you receive this. It is, however, possible that more pressing duty may have been assigned to Paymaster Forsyth, that will delay his visiting Tallahassee.

Lieutenant J. C. Casey, now in Florida, has received a temporary appointment as paymaster, and on the 5th instant I sent him a bond to be executed. As soon as that is returned, I shall order him to Tallahassee, to remain there until all the claims against the department in that quarter are settled.

Volunteers who were absent when their companies were paid will have to apply to the accounting officers at this place for settlement, as the rolls which establish their claims are in the Second Auditor's office. Letters on the subject, addressed to the Auditor, or to me, will be attended to without delay.

I am, &c.

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
July 13, 1837.

SIR: Paymaster Forsyth has furnished me a copy of your letter to him of the 8th ultimo, in which you say the deranged state of the currency is such as to preclude the possibility of his obtaining from the local banks such funds as would enable him to pay the militia and volunteers of the Territory, and advise him to proceed to Washington to make the necessary arrangements with me for paying off the claims against the Pay Department.

I enclose you a copy of the paymaster's answers to my inquiries on the subject, from which it appears that many of the claimants refused to be paid in the paper of your banks, and required specie. He thinks northern paper would be acceptable; but it appears, from what follows in his letter, that none of the claims, or but a few of them are sufficiently authenticated to be acted on by a paymaster, if there were no difficulty about funds to pay them with; and that the proper muster-rolls have not been made, which makes it necessary that the claims should be submitted to the accounting officers of the Government before they are paid.

Under these circumstances, all that I can do is to request your excellency to instruct the officers to forward the claims of their commands to me, with evidence of the service, and statements of the circumstances under which it was performed, in order that the claims may be audited for settlement.

I will also thank you to inform me what funds will be acceptable to the claimants, and, if they can be provided, it shall be done; if not, their claims must remain unsettled until suitable provision is made by Congress.

I am, &c.

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA,
Tallahassee.

[Enclosure in letter of July 13, 1837.]

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
July 11, 1837.

SIR: Governor Call says in his letter to you (of which you have given me a copy) that the deranged state of the finances of the country is such as to preclude your obtaining from the local banks such funds as would enable you to pay the volunteers and militia of the Territory; and advises you to visit Washington for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements with the Paymaster General for paying off the numerous claims against the Pay Department.

I will thank you to inform me what funds were under your control, that you could have used in paying the claims against this department, of which the Governor speaks; whether any other funds than specie would be received in payment by the claimants, and what funds.

Please also inform me the probable amount of the claims the Governor refers to, and whether the claimants have been regularly mustered, and are fully prepared to be paid; or whether these claims should be first submitted to the accounting officers of the Government.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON,
Paymaster General.

R. A. FORSYTH, *Paymaster.—Present.*

[Enclosure in letter of July 13, 1837.]

WASHINGTON CITY, *July* 11, 1837.

SIR: In reply to your communication of this date, I have the honor to state that the funds within my control, in making payments at Tallahassee, were Union and Central Bank paper. Many of the individuals who had claims against the Government for services, demanded gold or silver, and refused to take Florida paper. I am inclined to believe that northern paper would be acceptable. Great difficulty will occur, however, for the want of specie to make change, as none can be had at Tallahassee. I have no knowledge of more than one company and two detachments who have been regularly mustered in and out of service, and could be paid without referring the rolls to the accounting officers of the Government. Other claims exist; but I do not think numerous. Most of the claimants have never been regularly mustered in or out of service; and I think it would be expedient and proper to submit the rolls to the department previous to a payment being made. I remained in Tallahassee ten days after the receipt of Governor Call's letter, employed in paying off the companies of Captains Evans and Myrick, as far as it could be done, with checks on the Union Bank of Florida.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. A. FORSYTH,
Paymaster U. S. Army.

General N. Towson,
Paymaster General U. S. Army.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
July 31, 1837.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th instant. When you wrote that letter, you could not have received mine of the 13th, which has probably reached you before now. On turning to my copy of that letter, it does not strike me that I can now add any thing useful to it.

Is it not possible that you have comprehended, in the claims referred to, many against other branches of the service than the Pay Department, of which I have no cognizance?

With great respect, I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, *Tallahassee.*

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
August 8, 1837.

GOVERNOR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo.

I regret, as much as you do, the delay in the payment of the volunteers, which forms the subject of your communication, and have done every thing in my power to prevent it. I am at a loss to know why you did not require Mapes to pay them, if they were entitled to it, at the time he was in your staff. The subject was under your control; it was for that purpose he was ordered to join you, and was furnished with funds, a part of which is now in the Central Bank. This not having been done, I directed the senior officer of the department in Florida to have it attended to as soon as an officer could be spared from more pressing duty; and Major Forsyth was accordingly sent to Tallahassee, with instructions to consult you, and pay off all claims against the department. He assigns two reasons for not doing so: the principal one, in which you concur, was, that his funds were of the Union and Central Banks of Tallahassee, which the volunteers would not receive; and that but two companies, a part of which had been paid, were prepared to receive it. Under such circumstances, I do not see what more could have been done by this department to have the claims you mention settled.

It is my intention to send a paymaster to Tallahassee as soon as I can spare one for that purpose, or procure an officer of the line to perform the duty; but, in the mean time, it will greatly expedite the business if the companies are mustered, and one set of the rolls sent to this place, and the others retained by you or the captains. If there are no doubtful points to be settled by the accounting officers, as you seem to think, the payment can be made on the rolls retained; but if there are, it will certainly save time to have the rolls placed in their hands as soon as practicable.

It is much to be regretted that these companies have not been mustered before; if they had, and I had been furnished the rolls, they would have been paid long since. This is a duty that should never be delayed for the arrival of a paymaster, as that never can expedite, and frequently delays, the settlement.

I am glad to learn from your letter that the paper of the Central Bank will be received by the troops. Major Forsyth was authorized to receive

all that was to the credit of Paymaster Mapes in that bank, and would have been furnished any additional sum required, in southern funds, if he had applied to me for it.

You inform me that the Central Bank will now purchase the checks of the Government officers on the banks of New York, and give their own bills in payment; which you think every one will be glad to receive. You will see, by the enclosed circular to disbursing officers, that it is not in the power of paymasters to obtain funds in New York to draw on. If the banks will purchase drafts on Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, or New Orleans, they can be obtained from the Treasury; or, if the notes of the deposite banks at either of those places will be received by the troops, they can be obtained.

Let me entreat you to have all the troops that require it mustered immediately.

I am, &c.,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, *Tallahassee.*

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 30, 1836.

SIR: Yours of the 18th instant has just been received. The letter you enclosed to Major Kirby shall be forwarded to Charleston, where, I learn, he has gone. From your letter, I perceive you are but little advised of the situation of those who have claims against the Paymaster's Department.

You speak of paymasters having been ordered into the field as early as the 2d of February, and observe, "that if the militia referred to in your [my] letter had, when their term of service expired, been properly mustered, and the rolls placed in the hands of the paymaster, they could have been paid on quitting the field; but the paymaster must now follow them to their respective homes to perform that duty."

Now the fact is, that the greater number of those having claims against the Paymaster's Department served in the months of December and January, and were discharged before the paymasters arrived in the field; others served at distant posts on the frontier when a paymaster presented himself during the period of their service; and a third class were ordered by the commanding general on a detached service; after accomplishing which, they were directed to proceed home, there to be discharged.

Thus you will perceive that your remark does not justly apply to any of the Florida troops, and that the inconvenience to which the Pay Department may be exposed, having to send officers to their respective homes in order to pay the troops, does not result from neglect of duty on the part of the officers commanding them.

I have not received the letter which you did me the honor of addressing me on the 30th of March last, but I will endeavor to have the muster-rolls prepared in such a manner as to avoid any difficulty in the payment; and hope that a paymaster may be ordered to perform that duty as early as practicable, if it should be found inconvenient for Major Kirby to do so.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General N. TOWSON,

Paymaster General United States Army.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 1, 1836.

DEAR SIR: I have received your letter of the 13th June, and regret to have given you so much trouble. Major Kirby has been here on duty for some time, and will soon have completed his payments. He is very prompt and efficient in his office, and despatches business with great rapidity, notwithstanding the unpleasant duty he has had to perform.

He has, no doubt, ere this, reported to you officially.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General N. TOWSON.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 30, 1836.

SIR: Major Mapes, of the Pay Department, is still with me, engaged in paying off the troops as they return from service. There are two or three detachments yet to be paid. I have found him a most valuable officer in every respect, and have given him an appointment in my staff as aid-de-camp. I hope it will be no inconvenience to your department for him to remain in that situation, as it will not interfere with the performance of his other duties. From his experience, and general intelligence, he will be highly serviceable to me and to the country.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

TALLAHASSEE, *August* 7, 1836.

SIR: Your communication of the 27th of July, with the enclosure from the Paymaster General, is duly received. It is not, nor has it been, my intention to prevent the payment of any who are entitled, under any circumstances, to receive pay for services rendered.

I mentioned, in my letter of the 19th of July, my knowledge of the services rendered by Colonel Warren, Lieutenant Colonel Mills, Major Cooper, and Captain Putnam. Colonel Warren and Major Cooper were wounded. How far the Secretary of War may decide that those who were not in the field, but remained at home, were in service, is for him, not me, to determine.

If the organization does include no more than one colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors, with captains, lieutenants, &c., as stated, there is no doubt but the abovenamed, who rendered faithful and active service, and who shed their blood, should be the officers recognised as in service, and commanding, whatever informalities may arise in the muster. The facts alluded to I will cheerfully give under certificate, if required. A copy of this communication is sent to the Paymaster General, requesting him to lay it before the Secretary of War.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor and Commander-in-chief.

Major SMITH,
Paymaster U. S. Army, St. Augustine.

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 18, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 3d instant, and have sent Major Mapes to Newnansville, agreeably to your request, to finish the payments which should have been made by Major Smith. He was ordered by me to proceed to Newnansville on that duty, and he was authorized to call on Colonel Crane for an escort. The reason assigned by him to me for not executing the order, was his ill health, and not that Colonel Crane did not think the object sufficiently important to justify him in sending an escort. Major Smith had sent me a copy of your letter to the Secretary of War, in which you mention the number of officers who might be paid according to the number of men returned by General Hernandez. Knowing, as I did, that a majority of the officers and men who presented themselves for payment had never performed a day's service, I requested Major Smith to pay the officers whom I knew to have served faithfully, and told him he might regard that request as a positive order if he found it necessary to cover his responsibility; but he left the Territory without paying any of the officers except Major Putnam.

It was, no doubt, your intention that those only should be paid who had performed actual service; and such are the instructions I have given to Major Mapes. But I fear you will find, on inquiry, that a large number of the men paid by Major Mapes, though belonging to the regiments ordered out by General Hernandez, never left their homes, or performed one day's service during the war.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Commanding the Army in Florida.

General N. TOWSON,
Paymaster General, Washington.

TALLAHASSEE, *May* 9, 1837.

SIR: I regret to be under the necessity of troubling you again on the subject of the pay due the militia of Middle and West Florida. Those engaged under my command in the fall campaign, as well as others since employed in the defence of the frontier, (amounting to ten or twelve companies,) still remain unpaid. Since Major Mapes left here in August last, none of the militia called into service from this part of the country have been paid. I have written several times to General Jesup on the subject; but, as yet, no paymaster has arrived, and I am under the necessity of applying to you, and requesting that one may be ordered immediately to this place to pay off the troops which have been discharged from service.

Having reason to believe that *impositions* will be attempted on the Paymaster's Department, by a part of the battalion of East Florida militia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel William J. Mills, I have, from a sense of justice to the Government, to request that the paymasters in Florida may be instructed to pay such portions only of that battalion as I may designate.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL, *Governor of Florida.*

General N. TOWSON,
Paymaster General U. S. A.

WASHINGTON CITY, *July* 8, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter from Governor Call on the subject of payments to militia in Florida. Of the numerous unsatisfied claims referred to, but a small portion applies to the Pay Department. None would have remained unsatisfied, could I have had control of the proper kind of funds.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

R. A. FORSYTH,
Paymaster U. S. A.

General N. TOWSON,
Paymaster General U. S. A.

[Enclosed in the preceding.]

TALLAHASSEE, *June* 8, 1837.

SIR: I regret very much that the deranged state of the finances of the country is such as to preclude the possibility of your obtaining at this time, from our local banks, such funds as will enable you to pay the militia and volunteers of the Territory which have been engaged in the service of the United States.

The Government could not have anticipated the sudden and unexpected change which has taken place. It is highly important to the interest of those concerned that the most prompt payment should be made; and, if consistent with the instructions you have received from the chief of your department, I would suggest the propriety of your proceeding immediately to Washington for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements with the Paymaster General for paying off the numerous unsatisfied claims against that department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Major FORSYTH,
Paymaster U. S. A.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 16, 1837.

SIR: I am again under the necessity of reminding you that the militia and volunteers of Middle Florida have not been paid for services rendered the Government near twelve months since. This is a grievance of which complaint is justly made; and I have most earnestly to request that a paymaster may be ordered immediately to this place, to pay off all the claims against the department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Gen. TOWSON,
Paymaster General.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 25, 1837.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 13th instant, accompanied with a copy of one from Paymaster Forsyth, of the 11th instant. I must say I have

read his letter with some surprise. It is certainly a very different communication from that which I had a right to suppose he would have made to you on the subject to which it relates. My letter of the 8th of June (a copy of which he appears to have furnished you with) was written at his special instance and request. He informed me that he had funds only to pay two companies those of (Myrick and Evans,) to whom he had made partial payments during the last winter; and that, by going to Washington, he could make the necessary arrangements for funds; and I certainly understood that he would return here immediately and complete the payments to the troops of Middle Florida. At the time I wrote the letter of the 8th of June to Major Forsyth, both the banks at this place had suspended specie payments. The bills of the Union Bank were at a discount, and the Central Bank would not give its paper in exchange for the checks of the Government on any bank whatever. Since that time the Central Bank has adopted a different policy, and it now purchases the checks of the Government officers on the banks of New York. I am authorized by the president of that institution to say, that it will afford the Government any facility it may require in that way. This bank is in as good a situation, and in as good credit in this country, as any bank in the United States; and every one will be glad to receive payment in the bills of this institution. I am further informed by the president, there is in bank, to the credit of the Government, $20,000, placed there by Major Mapes, which he is ready to pay. Thus, you will perceive, there is no difficulty about funds. All we require is, the checks on the banks of New York, and a paymaster to disburse the money which may be raised on them. I am greatly surprised at the suggestion of Major Forsyth, that the claims against the Government are not numerous, and that they should be referred to the department at Washington before they are paid. His reason for this is, that the troops were not regularly mustered in and out of service. This is true; but would a reference of the rolls to the department at Washington dispense with this formality? would not the muster out of service still be necessary? If so, why longer delay the payment of claims which have been due twelve months, by sending the rolls to Washington, and then sending them back here to have the troops mustered out of service? Why not have them mustered and paid at once? These troops were not regularly mustered in or out of service, because there was no regular officer to perform that duty; but they were regularly organized and enrolled; they performed their duty faithfully, and they can show the proper evidence of their services, and of the amount due them. In East Florida I ordered troops into service without being mustered. General Jesup ordered them to be mustered out, and they were immediately paid. Two-thirds of the men who have been in service during the war, have been received in the same manner, and they have all been paid. Major Kirby paid off five or six companies last summer, who were precisely in the same situation. And now, when I have been writing for a paymaster, first to General Jesup, and then to yourself, for more than six months, to be told that a further delay is to be encountered, is an embarrassment which I had not anticipated. If it was not necessary to send the rolls of East Florida to Washington before the troops were paid, it cannot be necessary to observe that formality in Middle Florida, where the men were precisely in the same situation. Middle Florida, with a frontier of near 200 miles, has defended herself during the whole war; and, with the exception of a few months last summer, there has scarcely been a regular soldier encamped

within her limits. If a paymaster is sent, I can procure a regular officer, if it is required, to muster the men out of service: and I do hope, sir, in justice to the claimants, that one may be ordered here with that promptitude which has always characterized your proceedings. Major Forsyth informs you that the claims are not numerous; he certainly did not obtain this information from me, for I assure you, sir, there are ten or twelve companies which have claims for three and four months' service. Of this fact I informed you in my first communication on the subject. I see, in all the remarks of Major Forsyth, nothing but procrastination and delay. Early in December last, before I was relieved in command of the army, I requested Major Andrews to send a paymaster to this place, to pay off the troops; and still their claims are unsatisfied. Ever since then I have, from time to time, been urging their payment, but without effect. The winter and the spring were permitted to pass away—midsummer has now arrived, and it is an unpleasant duty to travel in the south; but I trust, nevertheless, it will be performed. I have every confidence in your energy and prompt attention to business, and I hope soon to be informed that a paymaster is on his way to perform the duties required.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

General Towson,
Paymaster General.

Tallahassee, *August* 21, 1837.

General: I have received your letter of the 8th instant, in reply to mine of the 25th ultimo. You observe that you are at a loss to know why I did not require Major Mapes to pay the volunteers, if they were entitled to it, at the time he was in my staff. Major Mapes did pay very promptly all claims which were due at that time; but you appear not to be apprized that others have since accumulated, and that he left here early in September to pay off the troops in East Florida; and that, owing to his extreme ill health, he never returned. The term of service of the men ordered to the frontier in the months of June and July of the last year had not expired when he left here; hence he could not pay them, and numerous other companies ordered into service subsequent to that time.

You speak of Major Forsyth having been ordered here to pay off the troops; of the causes assigned by him for not having done so; and observe that the principal one, in which I concur, was, that his funds were of the Central and Union banks of Tallahassee, which the volunteers would not receive.

I beg leave to say, sir, that I do not concur in the correctness of this statement, as you will readily perceive by an attentive perusal of my last letter.

In that letter I informed you that Major Forsyth had told me emphatically and positively that he had funds to pay off but two companies; and that it was under this belief, and at his request, that I addressed him the letter (a copy of which he laid before you) requesting him to proceed to Washington to procure suitable funds. I was not apprized, at that time, that Major Forsyth had at his disposal $20,000 in the Central Bank of Florida, or that he would, as I afterwards learned he did, pay off the companies of Evans and Myrick in Union Bank bills, which were then, and

still are, at a discount of from five to ten per cent. in exchange for Central Bank notes. These two were the only companies Major Forsyth offered to pay; and when they, subsequently to the date of my letter, and after I had left Tallahassee on public business, agreed, and actually did receive from him payment in the Union Bank bills, he should not have used my letter as an excuse for leaving here, or assigned as a cause for not paying other companies to whom he did not offer them, that he had no other funds than Central and Union Bank bills. After Myrick's and Evans's companies received their pay in the worst funds he had at command, I know of no good reason he had to believe that other companies would refuse to receive the Central Bank notes, which were worth a premium. I again repeat that I wrote the letter to Major Forsyth, at his request, and on the information I received alone from him.

With regard to the muster of the troops, I know this to be a necessary formality; and in my last letter I informed you of the reason why it had not been done. I have been compelled to defend Middle Florida against the ravages of the Seminoles, and West Florida against the fugitive Creeks, without the aid of the Government—not having even so much as a regular officer to muster the troops into service, which is required by your department. It should not, therefore, be a matter of surprise that they have not been mustered. I have, however, sent by express an application to General Jesup for a regular officer to be sent forthwith, to muster all the companies out of service; and before a paymaster can arrive here, the rolls will be complete. I am not disposed to censure any one; but there has certainly been an extraordinary delay in the payment of these troops, and I hope it will not long continue to be a subject of complaint. There would be no difficulty in procuring funds, if we had a paymaster to disburse them; and I have again to request that one may be immediately ordered to perform that duty.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General N. Towson,
Paymaster General U. S. Army.

Tallahassee, *September* 6, 1837.

Sir: In my last letter to you I mentioned that Major Forsyth had stated to me that he had funds, when here, only to complete the payment of Evans's and Myrick's companies. This statement appeared inconsistent with the fact that there was to his credit in the Central Bank of Florida at this place $25,000, no part of which has yet been expended. I have subsequently called at the Central Bank, and find that the check of Major Mapes placing this fund to the credit of Major Forsyth is dated at New York on the 8th of June. This reconciles the apparent inconsistency. This statement of Major Forsyth was made before that time, and I had no conversation with him on the subject after the 8th of June.

As an act of justice to Major Forsyth, I am happy in being enabled to make this statement. I hope I shall soon hear from you again on the subject of sending a paymaster to pay off the troops of Middle and West Florida.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

General N. Towson,
Paymaster General.

ORDNANCE OFFICE,
Washington, June 22, 1836.

SIR: By order of the Secretary of War, I have the honor to inform you that Captain E. Harding, the officer commanding the Mount Vernon arsenal, Alabama, has been directed to comply promptly with any requisitions which you may find it necessary to make on him to enable you to carry on your operations.

The Mount Vernon arsenal has been selected, that being deemed, from its position, the most convenient to afford the ready means of supply.

The precaution has been taken, however, to give similar instructions to the officers commanding the Augusta (Georgia) arsenal, and the Charleston depot, should you find it necessary to make requisitions on them.

Any additional information which you may require will be promptly given.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. BOMFORD,
Colonel of Ordnance.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

TALLAHASSEE, *July* 9, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ultimo, informing me of the order given by the Secretary of War to the officer having charge of the arsenal at Mount Vernon to issue arms and ammunition on my requisition. Anticipating such an order, I sent in April last and obtained a sufficient supply.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL.

Colonel GEORGE BOMFORD,
Ordnance Department.

APPENDIX.

[The following documents should have been inserted in the body of the foregoing correspondence, in the order hereafter noted, but were accidentally omitted in preparing it.]

[The seven following letters should have immediately preceded the letter of May 25, 1836, (page 1,) from the Secretary of War to Governor Call.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 5, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 20th ultimo, and, in answer, beg leave to inform you that General Scott has been this day requested by the Adjutant General to communicate freely with you on the subject of the necessary measures for the defence of the settlements in Florida against the depredations of the Indians. I have to request that you would state your views freely to General Scott, who will be authorized to pursue such a course as will be found necessary. I agree with you that it would not be expedient, under present circumstances, to remove any of the regular troops from Florida, and General Scott has been accordingly instructed to retain them there. He has been further requested to establish posts in the healthful positions, wherever the state of the country may require.

It seems to be conceded that military operations cannot be carried on against the Indians during the summer season. Your suggestion, therefore, seems to me very correct, to take all necessary measures to prevent the incursions of the Indians, by the establishment of posts, and to be prepared, as soon as the proper season arrives, for resuming operations. It is so important to afford adequate security to our citizens, that, if we err at all, we had better err by establishing too many than too few posts. I have to request, therefore, that you would state your views fully on this point to General Scott.

A bill is pending before Congress, and will probably pass within a few days, authorizing the raising of volunteers. As soon as it becomes a law, General Scott will be authorized to organize such a force, of that description, as may be necessary, in addition to the regular troops, to afford full protection to the inhabitants of Florida. While General Scott remains in the Territory, the general measures of defence will be, of course, intrusted to him. As a precautionary matter, however, and looking to possible events, instructions will be given to the commanding officers of the arsenals at Augusta and Mount Vernon to issue any arms that may be required for the defence of the Territory.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *May* 14, 1836.

Sir: I have received and submitted to the President your two letters of the 28th and 30th ultimo.

My letter of May 5, in answer to yours of the 20th ultimo, will have conveyed to you the views of the President at that time on the subjects presented by you. The bill, to which I alluded in that letter, has not yet passed Congress, and the department is therefore prevented from taking those definitive measures which are contemplated. But, as soon as it is passed, measures will be taken for raising such a force under it as, in addition to the regular troops in Florida, may be deemed sufficient for the protection of the frontiers. The President is disposed to view favorably your suggestion respecting a summer campaign. The impression heretofore entertained at the department, derived from various sources of information, has been, that operations could not be carried on in Florida at that season of the year, with any just regard to the health of the troops. But your experience, official situation, and knowledge of the country, justly give weight to your opinion. And, it may be, that men acclimated to that region, may operate there without danger from the climate. As soon, however, as the volunteer law passes, I will write you again; and you may rely upon it that no proper measures will be omitted to afford adequate security to the people of Florida.

My attention has been called to the concluding paragraph of my letter to you of the 5th instant. I find it is not as definite as it should have been. I intended to say that the necessary arms should be issued upon your requisition: and such were the instructions given, as you will perceive from the enclosed copy of a memorandum given to the Ordnance Department.

I have had a conversation with General Jesup on the subject of the claims against the Quartermaster's Department in Florida. He informs me that he wrote you some time since on the subject, and that arrangements had been made for the adjustment and payment of these claims. He will immediately advise you of the instructions that have been given.

Orders were some time since given to the Paymaster General to cause the militia to be paid as fast as they were mustered into service and as the pay was due to them. I have again renewed the subject, and requested the immediate attention of General Towson to it, and also that he would write you.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department, *May* 16, 1836.

Sir: I have received your letter of May 4th. You will perceive that, while Major General Scott, in Florida, is charged with the general measures of defence, it would not do for this department to authorize the organization and employment of a force independent of his authority. Still, however, if any portion of the frontier is left without defence, and the inhabitants exposed to danger, the President will sanction the calling out by you of a force necessary to repel the attack of the Indians. You may rely upon every disposition being felt here to afford due protection to the inhabitants of Florida, and to reduce the refractory Indians to submission.

General Scott, by the last advices, was at St. Augustine, awaiting the orders of the department. He will be authorized, after putting the frontier in a proper state of defence, to turn over the command to General Clinch, and to return to his department if the state of affairs there will, in his opinion, permit. You will perceive the extreme difficulty of determining, here, what posts should be abandoned or established, when there is a contrariety of opinion between officers of high rank in the country. My own impression respecting general defensive measures is, that healthful positions should be sought along the lines, and temporary posts established, with slight defences for the occupation of the troops during the summer season; that it is better to have more posts with fewer men in each, than it is to have few posts with large garrisons; that the Indians will scarcely collect in large masses, or attack fortified positions; but that they will spread themselves along the frontiers in small parties, doing all the mischief they can. The troops should, at all times, be upon the alert; and there should be mounted men employed, acquainted with the nature of the country and the habits of the Indians, who can instantly follow any marauding parties which may strike upon the settlements. It is indispensable that the Indians should be pursued. If they find that their expeditions are successful, and that they are not followed to their fastnesses, they will lay waste the whole frontier. Certainly, where an Indian can go, a white man can follow. It is necessary, however, for this purpose, that a corps of spies and guides should be formed and kept continually in motion. Whenever a hostile party is discovered, their trail should be followed, and the necessary force, infantry and mounted men, kept within supporting distance of these spies. Vigilance, activity, and decision, are essentially necessary to secure the objects in view.

From your representation, I am under the impression that a very small force at Tampa Bay will be sufficient, and that the other troops had better be stationed upon the line of the frontier settlements. I shall transmit to General Scott copies of your letter and this answer, that he may know the views of the department. He will be authorized to keep in service such mounted men as may be necessary for defensive operations during the summer season.

From what is understood here of the climate, men not accustomed to it cannot, with safety, carry on military operations. If this be so, the regular troops ought not to be required to do any more than defend their positions, overawe the Indians, and pursue any war-parties that may make their appearance; and, perhaps, also occasionally ranging through the more healthful parts of the country.

I mentioned in a preceding letter that there was a bill pending before Congress for raising a volunteer force, and that, as soon as it passed, definitive measures would be taken on the subject of your proposition to imbody a force of this description. Congress have not finally acted upon this matter; but, in the mean time, you are authorized to take preparatory steps for raising one thousand volunteers, to be employed whenever required, in operations against the Seminole Indians. I send you a copy of the bill for your information. But you will please to observe that, as it has not passed, no definitive measures can be taken upon this subject, nor assurances given. The men may be enrolled, and the company officers selected, so as to be ready to be imbodied the moment the bill passes. They should be organized with respect to officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, agree-

ably to the existing militia laws of the United States. The question respecting the appointment of superior officers will be determined as soon as the law passes. All this will be considered as the mere voluntary act of the individuals, and will not subject the Government to any expense whatever until the necessary legal provision is made. It is merely preparatory to an organization.

I have shown this letter to the President, who has authorized me to express to you his approbation of it.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

P. S.—The President suggests that, whenever the Indian ponies and beef cattle cannot be taken for the use of the army, they should be shot.

L. C.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

War Department,
May 17, 1836.

Sir: I have just received your letter of the 6th instant, with its enclosures.

Having already written to you very fully on the subject of the defence of Florida, I have nothing more to add at present.

As the Indians are actually committing depredations upon the settlements, you are certainly right in taking adequate measures for protection; and the President will sanction the employment of whatever militia force may be required for this service, until other arrangements are made.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

War Department,
May 19, 1836.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th instant has just been received.

The volunteer law has not yet passed, but I think it will in a day or two; and, in the mean time, I trust you are making all the arrangements necessary for the employment of the requisite force as soon as the measure is sanctioned by Congress. I enclose you a copy of a letter received from the Secretary of the Navy, by which you will see that a naval force has been ordered to the coast, for the purposes specified in your letter. It will be necessary for you to correspond with Commodore Dallas, and to suggest to that officer such a course of proceeding as may be demanded by the public interest.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
May 21, 1836.

SIR: I have just received your letter of the 10th instant. The volunteer bill has not yet passed, and the department is not able to authorize you to organize, permanently, any of that species of force. I still, however, hope that it will pass within a day or two. I can but repeat what I have already said to you. This department will sanction the employment of any force which you may find necessary to protect the inhabitants of Florida, until measures can be adopted for renewing offensive operations against the Seminoles, or until arrangements shall have been completed by General Scott for the security of the frontier.

A letter has this day been received from General Scott, by which it appears that he has lost no time in making a proper disposition of his force, with a view to the defence of the country, until the state of the season may render it proper again to order the regular troops to take the field.

I have directed the Quartermaster General's Department to instruct Captain Shannon to pay any expenditures which may be incurred by you in protecting the settlements. You are at liberty to authorize the construction of blockhouses at such points as you may deem proper, where a small force may be stationed, and to which the inhabitants may resort for safety.

Captain Shannon will not only procure such supplies as are required, and which properly belong to the quartermaster's department, but all such as relate to the subsistence. Immediate arrangements will also be made for the payment, from time to time, of the men thus called out.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 23, 1836.

SIR: The law for raising volunteers has passed Congress, but has not yet been presented to the President for his approval. It will be signed by him without delay, and I will transmit you a copy the moment it can be printed. The general features remain unaltered, except in the appointment of the officers; these, in all cases, will be appointed agreeably to the laws of the State or Territory where the volunteers are raised. I trust you are losing no time in endeavoring to engage volunteers, so as to have them legally organized on the receipt of the law. Further instructions will be given with respect to their employment during the summer season, as soon after the law is signed as these can be prepared.

No delay has taken place here in considering every suggestion made by you, and in answering your various letters. The defence of the Territory is an object of deep interest with the Government. Major General Jesup has proceeded to take the direction of the measures necessary for the reduction of the Creek Indians. He has been instructed at the commencement of his operations to station a force at the southern point of the Creek country, so as to cut off all communication between the Seminole and Creek Indians; and, also, immediately to remove the whole of the Creek Indians from that part of the country, preparatory to their general emigration. It

is hoped that this movement will prevent any co-operation between the hostile parties of these tribes. Without the adoption of such a plan, the measures in Alabama might drive the Creek Indians into Florida.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

His Excellency R. K. Call,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

[This should have immediately followed letter of May 25, 1836, to Governor Call, (page 3,) in which it was enclosed.]

War Department, *May* 25, 1836.

Sir: Should Major General Scott leave, or have left Florida, you will please to assume the command of the regular force, and of the volunteers and militia who may be called into the service of the United States in that Territory. The great objects are, to protect our settlements, and to reduce the Indians to submission. I enclose you copies of such communications to General Scott and Governor Call as appear to be necessary for you to understand the views of the Government on this subject. It is Governor Call's opinion that a successful campaign may be carried on against the Indians during the present season of the year. I enclose you a copy of his letter expressing that sentiment. This, also, is the impression of the President; and I have, therefore, to beg of you, if you consider the scheme practicable, to organize an expedition, and to commence and continue offensive operations against the Seminoles until they are reduced. How far it may be proper to bring the troops into the field at this time, I cannot definitively judge. The climate is said to be dangerous; and, if so, the health of the men should not be unnecessarily exposed. Still, the country must be defended; and the whole matter must be left to your discretion, on a view of all the circumstances.

Under an act of Congress, which was approved yesterday by the President, Governor Call has been requested to raise 1,000 volunteers—one-half of them mounted, and one-half infantry; these will be subject to your orders, to be employed wherever circumstances may require. And I have to urge upon you to cause them to be so stationed as to secure the most efficient protection. So long as the Indians are allowed to strike a stroke without being pursued, their depredations and murders will continue. Blockhouses should be constructed, and the volunteers stationed at every proper position; and these should be in readiness to follow the Indians whenever they make their appearance. If it is in your power to carry on offensive operations against the Indians, it is very important you should do so.

I enclose a copy of my letter of this date to the Secretary of the Navy, by which you will see the arrangements which are in progress for the co-operation of the seamen.

Major General Jesup has also been instructed, the moment the state of affairs in the Creek country will permit, to turn his attention to Florida, and to move into that Territory with whatever force he may deem necessary. I enclose an extract of a letter written to him yesterday, which will show you the views entertained here of the necessity of his intercepting the communication between the Seminole and Creek Indians.

A call has been made upon the Governor of Tennessee for 2,500 volunteers; one brigade of these, which will consist of two or three regiments, and contain probably about 1,200 or 1,500 men, (depending on the organization,) will be called immediately into the service of the United States. The commanding officer will proceed, as soon as they are raised, into the Creek country, and report himself to Major General Jesup. General Jesup has been instructed to detach the whole, or a portion of them, immediately into Florida, should circumstances require that measure. The circumstances which will govern him will be the success attending the call for volunteers by Governor Call, and the state of affairs in Florida. If the whole number of volunteers assigned to Florida can be raised, and shall be found to constitute as numerous a force of this description as can be usefully employed during the summer, then General Jesup will not order any of these troops into Florida; otherwise, he will do it. I will thank you immediately to communicate with General Jesup, and keep him advised of the state of affairs, that he may be able to stop the Tennessee troops on their march should they not be wanted, or to order them to your assistance should they be required. It may be, that the result of his own operations in the Creek country may be such as to allow him to detach for Florida a portion of his command, without waiting the arrival of the Tennessee troops.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

General D. L. CLINCH,
Fort Drane, Florida.

[This should have followed letter of June 20, 1836, (page 6,) to Governor Call, in which it was enclosed.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *June* 20, 1836.

SIR: I presume Major General Jesup communicated to you a copy of my letter of the 25th ultimo. Lest, however, he should not have done this, a copy of it is herewith enclosed. By a letter just received from Governor Cannon, it appears that the eastern brigade of mounted men will rendezvous at Fayetteville on the 1st July. They will be armed and equipped from the State arsenal, and will proceed, I presume, without delay, to report themselves to you.

Brigadier General Clinch has resigned his commission in the army, and, by direction of the President, the command of the regular forces and militia serving in Florida has been assigned to Governor Call. It was hoped that a body of volunteers, under the recent act of Congress, might have been raised in that Territory; and Governor Call was requested to raise a brigade, amounting to one thousand men. I am apprehensive, however, by information received from him, that he will not be able to raise this force. In that event, it will be absolutely necessary that some other aid should be afforded for the defence of Florida; and as it appears, in your letter of the 12th instant to the Adjutant General, that there is no probability that any portion of the Georgia or Alabama troops will consent to serve in Florida, resort must be had to the West Tennessee brigade. You will please to direct at least one thousand of them to proceed without delay,

and report themselves to Governor Call. If necessary, you will cause them to be met on the road with this information, in order that they may be able to take the nearest route to their destination. I will thank you to communicate freely with Governor Call on the subject of your own operations and his. Should you find, however, by communicating with Governor Call, that he has succeeded in raising such a force as he deems adequate to the defence of the Territory, you will then stop the West Tennessee troops, and employ them as you deem proper, or cause them to be discharged.

I have to request that one or more of the steamboats authorized to be employed may be placed under the direction of Governor Call, so as to ply in the waters of Florida, if you can spare them. I presume that, as soon as those expected from New Orleans arrive, you will be able to detach some of them to his aid.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Major General WINFIELD SCOTT,
Fort Mitchell, Alabama.

[This should have followed letter of July 11, 1836, to Governor Call, (page 7,) in which it is referred to.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *July* 11, 1836.

SIR: It has been suggested that a few Creek warriors might be useful to Governor Call, and might be willing to be employed in the contemplated expedition against the Seminole Indians. You will please to correspond with Governor Call on this subject, and, if he should desire it, I will thank you to raise a small corps of this description, not exceeding two or three hundred, and send them to Florida. They may be paid and organized as volunteers, but should be placed under the command of some white man well acquainted with them, and who has their confidence. It is presumed that enough of young men would be willing to go, without requiring their families to be retained in Alabama until their return. This measure of retaining Indian families ought to be avoided, as the immediate removal of the Indians seems to be indispensably necessary.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

Major General THOMAS S. JESUP,
Fort Mitchell, Alabama.

[This should have followed the letter of February 20, 1837, to Governor Call, in which it is referred to, page 21.]

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, January 27, 1837.

SIR: I submit, herewith, a report from Lieutenant L'Engle, assistant quartermaster at Charleston, in reply to the complaint preferred against him by Governor Call, in his letter to you of the 20th ultimo, for an alleged failure to comply with a requisition for supplies for the Florida campaign.

The statement marked A exhibits the supply of forage sent from Charleston, under Governor Call's requisition, with the dates of the several shipments.

The statement marked B exhibits the supply of subsistence stores forwarded under that requisition.

And the statements marked C and D are exhibits of the supplies sent to Florida, under other requisitions, between the 16th of September and the 12th of November.

It will be seen, from documents Nos. 5 and 7, that, so far from the requisition being treated contemptuously, as Governor Call erroneously supposes, Lieutenant L'Engle took measures, immediately on the reception of it, on the 10th of September, to furnish the supplies called for, so far as they could be obtained in Charleston, and reported such as were not to be had there.

It was not accidental, as the Governor suggests, that the boats which he required from Charleston were furnished from Savannah. It was the result of instructions sent from this office immediately on the receipt of information that those articles could not be procured in Charleston. (See documents Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10.)

Governor Call's requisition (document E) bears date the 3d of September, at Tallahassee. It announced his intention of opening the campaign about the 20th of that month, and stated that supplies would "be required in the neighborhood of Volusia in a short time." It was received at Charleston on the 10th of September, thus leaving but little time to provide and forward to their remote destination the large quantities of forage and subsistence called for.

The shipments commenced on the 17th of September, and between that date and the 30th of the same month five vessels had been loaded and despatched for Florida. The campaign did not open so soon as was contemplated. The army crossed the Suwanee on the 28th of September, eleven days after the shipments commenced from Charleston, and, from document No. 11, it would seem that the supplies arrived in good season.

Owing to the wreck of the steamer Izard, and the consequent failure of the depot counted upon at the falls of the Withlacoochie, the Tennessee brigade fell back on Garey's Ferry on the 21st of October. At that date, it would appear, from Lieutenant Clark's report, that ample supplies were then floating on Lake George, awaiting the appointed arrival of the troops at Volusia. Under date of the 12th of October, he advises that "two steamboats, each having in tow a schooner, and all loaded with subsistence stores and forage, were to leave Picolata yesterday, for Lake George, with instructions to remain at the head of the lake until the troops shall arrive at Volusia; then to proceed to that place."

It is clear that Governor Call labors under some mistake in regard to the supplies forwarded from Charleston; and I am quite sure, on becoming acquainted with the facts in the case, he will take pleasure in doing justice to Lieutenant L'Engle. That officer was acting in the two fold capacity of quartermaster and commissary of subsistence, at Charleston, and has performed heavy duties in connexion with the several campaigns in Florida.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. CROSS,

Major, acting Quartermaster General.

Hon. B. F. BUTLER,

Secretary of War (ad interim) Washington.

[This should have followed letter of May 17, 1837, to Governor Call, (page 22,) in which it is referred to.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 17, 1837.

SIR: I have to request that you will instruct the officers of the subsistence department in Florida to continue, till the 1st of October next, the issue of rations to such of the suffering inhabitants of that Territory as may, in their opinion, and in that of the commanding officers of the different posts, be fit objects of the bounty of the Government.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General T. S. JESUP,
Tampa Bay, Florida.

[This should have followed letter of May 26, 1837, to Governor Call, (page 22,) in which it is referred to.]

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 24, 1837.

SIR: The letter of his excellency Governor Call, relative to the claim of E. J. Wood, for the charter of the steamer Minerva, referred to me from the War Department for a report, is herewith returned; and I avail myself of the occasion to submit the case for your consideration.

When this claim was first presented at this office, it was subject to two objections:

The first was, the want of proper evidence of the service of the boat—the certificate of the claimant himself (who appeared to be acting in the two-fold capacity of owner, and at the same time assistant quartermaster of the Territorial militia) being all that was offered to sustain it. This objection has subsequently been obviated, by the production of satisfactory evidence of service from Governor Call; and the claim might now be paid, but for its connexion with another transaction, which constituted the second objection to it. I refer to the seizure, by E. J. Wood, of the public steamer Lieutenant Izard, and the attempt, on his part, to libel her for salvage.

Believing that the seizure of a public vessel, under the circumstances attending the case, was a most unauthorized procedure, I suggested to your predecessor the justice of making the payment of Mr. Wood's claim for the charter of the Minerva dependent upon the *unconditional* surrender of the steamer Izard. Mr. Butler, desiring further information on the subject, made no decision on the claim; and I now repeat that suggestion to you.

The papers contained in the enclosed letter from the Solicitor of the Treasury, will put you in possession of the facts connected with the transaction, as alleged on both sides, and enable you to judge of its merits.

It will be seen from the letter of the claimant's counsel, that, reserving the claim for salvage for the action of Congress, he is willing to surrender the Izard on the amount expended for repairs made on her being reimbursed; and on this point he suggests an arbitration.

I cannot recommend a concurrence in this suggestion. The United States would, no doubt, have been put to some expense for repairs, if the public agents had not been prevented from raising and securing the boat

by the unauthorized seizure of her by Mr. Wood. But, without knowing the nature and extent, as well as the cost, of the repairs which he has thought fit to bestow upon her, I do not think the public ought to assume them, nor commit itself at all in regard to their reimbursement. Besides, this boat has now been withheld from the United States near six months, and in the claimant's possession. She has hardly been kept all that time inactive; the claimant may reasonably be supposed to have derived some profit from her operations. Be that as it may, however, she has been withheld from the public service; and, as the seizure was unauthorized in the first instance, her detention must be illegal; and Mr. Wood is, therefore, in my humble opinion, justly liable to the United States for all the damages they may have sustained by this unauthorized detention of their property; and it is worthy of consideration whether this liability should not be taken in view in adjusting his claim for the charter of the Minerva.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. CROSS,
Major, acting Quartermaster General.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War, Washington City.

[This should have followed letter of August 4, 1837, to Governor Call, (page 22,) in which it is referred to.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 3, 1837.

SIR: The attention of the department has been called to the subject of the aid afforded by Government to the suffering inhabitants of Florida, by a late letter received by the Quartermaster General, from Lieutenant Vinton, informing him that another steamboat has been employed to transport subsistence, on the requisition of Governor Call, who alleges that the one now on that service (the Izard) is not sufficient to supply the suffering inhabitants assembled at St. Mark's. You were informed, by a letter of the 17th May, that the President had resolved to continue the distribution of rations to the inhabitants who were unable to maintain themselves, until the 1st of October next; and by that intimation it was intended to convey his intention that these supplies should cease at that time. The object of Congress would appear to have been to succor the immediate wants of a people, who had been suddenly driven from their homes, and deprived of the means of supporting themselves—not to continue, during the whole war, to maintain them gratuitously; thereby withdrawing all motive for exertion on the part of those who might otherwise find means to maintain themselves. Cases may present themselves of the aged and infirm, the widow and the orphan, wherein you may be called upon to exercise a sound discretion, as you are hereby authorized to do; but, on the 1st of October, the present system of dealing out rations to the suffering inhabitants of Florida, generally, as now practised, must cease; and as early notice as possible ought to be given of this determination of the President.

That none may suffer under this decision, you will give employment to those who are in want of it; and it is supposed that the various branches of the service, especially the establishment of stores, posts, and good communications throughout the country, will enable you to do so. Apart from the pernicious moral influence of an indefinite continuance of such a

system, the success of the campaign will be jeoparded by it. If the steamboats and wagon-train, and other transportation intended for the service of the army, may be called off at any time from their legitimate and necessary uses to convey these supplies, the commanding general cannot be certain of receiving, with punctuality and despatch, those intended for the troops. And if the subsistence intended for the army is to be consumed irregularly by requisitions from officers whose duty it has been to obtain the rations heretofore distributed to the inhabitants, the commissary's department cannot answer for the result. The supply must, either way, far exceed the regular demand, which is attended, as experience proves, with great waste of the public stores; or there may be a deficiency of supplies for the troops, to the utter destruction of the best combined operations. Even those rations which, in the use of a sound discretion, you may find it absolutely necessary to distribute, ought to be taken from other resources than those intended for the use of the army, and transported by other means than those at the disposition of the quartermaster's department for the transportation of the baggage and stores of the army.

You will, therefore, cause all such persons to be assembled in the neighborhood of Jacksonville, on the St. John's, and at Tampa Bay, or Charlotte harbor—points which can be approached by sailing vessels; and, on information being received here of the number so to be supplied, measures will be taken, before the commencement of active operations, to detach this service from the army altogether, and employ agents to attend to it.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. R. POINSETT.

Major General T. S. Jesup,
Garey's Ferry, Florida.

[This should have followed letter of October 13, 1837, to Governor Call, (p. 23,) in which it is referred to.]

Paymaster General's Office,
Washington, October 12, 1837.

Sir: I have the honor to return Governor Call's letter to you of the 26th ultimo, referred to me to "report the force employed, and by what authority," the payment of which forms the subject of the Governor's letter.

I am unable to furnish the information, as no returns or rolls of the force alluded to have been obtained by this department, although earnestly called for. In one of Governor Call's letters to me, he says there are eight or ten companies that remain to be paid; this, with Paymaster Forsyth's letter, (a copy of which is herewith enclosed,) is all the information I have on the subject.

It would appear, from the Governor's letter, that he had been in correspondence with me for the last six months, urging the payment of those troops, without having produced a corresponding effort on my part to have it effected. You will perceive by the enclosed, that Paymaster Forsyth was sent to Tallahassee for the express purpose of settling the claims the Governor mentions, and that the Governor himself advised him to leave that place before he had done so, to procure better funds. You are aware, sir, that at the time the paymaster was here, it was not in the power of the de-

partment to obtain better funds from the Treasury. You will also perceive that it was his opinion that most of the claims required to be audited before they could be paid. Under such circumstances, I ordered Major Forsyth to Detroit to relieve Paymaster Larned, who is now on his way to Florida; and informed Governor Call that, as soon as a paymaster could be obtained, he would be sent to Tallahassee. In the mean time I urged him to have the companies mustered, (which had never been done,) and a roll of each company sent to this place. This has not yet been done, and it is probable Paymaster Mapes, who has been assigned to the duty, and is now on his way to Tallahassee, will have to wait until the muster is made, the rolls transmitted to this place, and returned, before he can act.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

N. TOWSON,
Paymaster General.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

[This should have followed the letter of December 30, 1837, to Governor Call, (page 24,) in which it is referred to.]

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
December 28, 1837.

SIR: I have the honor, herewith, to return Governor Call's letter of the 11th instant, referred to me with the following endorsement: "The Secretary desires to know whether Governor Call reported the number of men in service, and the reason of the call. The Adjutant General's office may be able to furnish evidence of this."

It will be seen by the endorsement of the Adjutant General on the Governor's letter, that there is no information on the subject in his office.

The Governor states, in his letter to you of the 27th, (supposed October,) 1837, herewith enclosed, the object for which the troops were called out, and that it was upon his own authority, which he thinks sufficient to authorize the payment, and says: "Hitherto, I know it has not been necessary to send the muster-rolls to the Paymaster General before the troops were paid. I speak with confidence on the subject, because I know it has not been the practice.

"The troops that entered the service last winter, both in East and Middle Florida, were ordered out by me. In the east they have been promptly paid; while in the middle district, with the exception of Myrick's and Evans's companies, none have been paid for more than twelve months."

I have no knowledge of any troops serving under precisely the same circumstances, that have been paid, except those provided for by the second section of the act of May 28, 1836, of which a printed copy is enclosed.

This act, it will be seen, was retrospective, and, therefore, cannot apply to such as were subsequently called into service. Paymasters are not authorized to pay troops unless duly called out, or the service subsequently sanctioned by authority from the Secretary of War, or general commanding the United States troops in the field.

I do not find the number of volunteers stated in any of the Governor's letters; but Paymaster Mapes has sent me an estimate, which, he says, is founded on data furnished by Governor Call, from which it appears there are 1 colonel, 2 majors, 4 quartermasters, 3 surgeons, a non-commissioned

staff, (number not stated,) and 27 companies; also, 250 men now in service, not included in the 27 companies, making an aggregate of 1,657; the greater part, he says, are mounted, and that it will require $118,522 58 to pay them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

N. TOWSON, *Paymaster General.*

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

[Enclosed in the preceding.]

AN ACT to provide for the payment of expenses incurred and supplies furnished on account of the militia received into the service of the United States for the defence of Florida.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, directed to cause to be paid the expenses that have been incurred, and the supplies that have been furnished, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, and the Territory of Florida, on account of the militia received into the service of the United States for the defence of Florida: *Provided*, That the accounts for these claims shall be examined and audited at the Treasury, as in other cases.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the Secretary of War be authorized to cause the militia called out to defend East Florida, by Generals Clinch and Hernandez, or by the Governor of Middle and West Florida, and such other militia and volunteers as have been received and mustered into the service of the United States and regularly discharged, to be paid in like manner with the volunteers and militia ordered into service under orders from the War Department.

JAMES K. POLK,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
M. VAN BUREN,
Vice President U. S. and President of the Senate.

Approved: May 28, 1836.

ANDREW JACKSON.

[The five following documents should have followed letter of June 9, 1838, to Governor Call, page 26.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March* 1, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose a copy of my communication of yesterday to General Taylor, requesting him to authorize your excellency to call into service a militia force of not exceeding 300 men, in the event of emergency.

Should your excellency not have heard from General Taylor on the subject previous to the receipt of this communication, you will be pleased to consider it as sufficient authority for making the call, if it shall be advisable to do so.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee, Fa.

[Enclosure in the preceding letter of March 1, 1839.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *February* 28, 1839.

SIR: Information has been received, through the honorable C. Downing, in a letter addressed to him by Governor Call, that several murders have recently been committed in the neighborhood of Tallahassee by parties of hostile Indians. With a view, therefore, to afford protection to the inhabitants of that part of the Territory, I have to request that you will give authority to his excellency, whenever the emergency arises, to call into service an effective militia force, not to exceed 300 men; and that you will furnish him with the necessary staff officers for mustering said militia into service, and providing the necessary supplies.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

Brevet Brigadier General Z. TAYLOR,
Commanding army of the South, Fort Brooke, Florida.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 24, 1839.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your excellency's letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of your correspondence with Colonel Davenport, on the subject of his refusal to furnish supplies for troops called out by you, which will be submitted to the Secretary of War, who is absent from the city at this time.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 30, 1839.

SIR: I enclose, for your information, an extract from instructions this day issued to General Taylor, authorizing the raising of a militia force, not to exceed three hundred men, to be placed under your control, and whose operations you are authorized to direct.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

His Excellency R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida, Tallahassee.

[Enclosure in preceding letter of August 30, 1839.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 30, 1839.

SIR: I have been directed by the Secretary of War to request that you will, without delay, authorize the Governor of Florida to raise a militia

force, not to exceed three hundred men, which must be mustered into the service of the United States, and organized according to the laws and regulations. This force must be furnished with suitable staff officers from the regular troops, for the purpose of providing it with the necessary supplies of subsistence, transportation, &c. It will be placed under the orders of the Governor, who will be authorized to direct its operations.

You are requested to state, for the information of the Secretary of War, what amount of militia force can, in your opinion, be raised within the Territory of Florida, and be relied on for active and efficient service.

A copy of these instructions has been transmitted to Governor Call.

S. COOPER,
Acting Secretary of War.

Brig. Gen. Z. TAYLOR,
Tampa Bay, Florida.

[This should have followed the letter of September 18, 1836, to the Secretary of War, (page 77.)

TALLAHASSEE, *September* 19, 1836.

SIR: The death of Captain Shannon has left me without a quartermaster, and without funds to make the necessary preparations for the approaching campaign. The Union Bank of Florida, with great liberality, has advanced the amount required; and I have this day drawn on you, in favor of John G. Gamble, president of that institution, for thirty thousand dollars, which I hope you will duly honor.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. K. CALL,
Governor of Florida.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION LIBRARIES
3 9088 00909 6538